

TITLE: **HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITING
DOMAINS AND USE THEREOF**

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- 1 -

HYPERSENSITIVE RESPONSE ELICITING DOMAINS AND USE THEREOF

This application claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application
5 Serial No. 60/212,211, filed on June 16, 2000.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to hypersensitive response elicitors and
10 their structure.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Interactions between bacterial pathogens and their plant hosts generally
15 fall into two categories: (1) compatible (pathogen-host), leading to intercellular
bacterial growth, symptom development, and disease development in the host plant;
and (2) incompatible (pathogen-nonhost), resulting in the hypersensitive response, a
particular type of incompatible interaction occurring, without progressive disease
symptoms. During compatible interactions on host plants, bacterial populations
20 increase dramatically and progressive symptoms occur. During incompatible
interactions, bacterial populations do not increase, and progressive symptoms do not
occur.

The hypersensitive response is a rapid, localized necrosis that is
associated with the active defense of plants against many pathogens (Kiraly, Z.,
25 "Defenses Triggered by the Invader: Hypersensitivity," pages 201-224 in: Plant
Disease: An Advanced Treatise, Vol. 5, J.G. Horsfall and E.B. Cowling, ed.
Academic Press New York (1980); Klement, Z., "Hypersensitivity," pages 149-177
in: Phytopathogenic Prokaryotes, Vol. 2, M.S. Mount and G.H. Lacy, ed. Academic
Press, New York (1982)). The hypersensitive response elicited by bacteria is readily
30 observed as a tissue collapse if high concentrations ($\geq 10^7$ cells/ml) of a limited
host-range pathogen like *Pseudomonas syringae* or *Erwinia amylovora* are infiltrated
into the leaves of nonhost plants (necrosis occurs only in isolated plant cells at lower
levels of inoculum) (Klement, Z., "Rapid Detection of Pathogenicity of
Phytopathogenic Pseudomonads," Nature 199:299-300; Klement, et al.,

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“Hypersensitive Reaction Induced by Phytopathogenic Bacteria in the Tobacco Leaf,” Phytopathology 54:474-477 (1963); Turner, et al., “The Quantitative Relation Between Plant and Bacterial Cells Involved in the Hypersensitive Reaction,” Phytopathology 64:885-890 (1974); Klement, Z., “Hypersensitivity,” pages 149-177 in Phytopathogenic Prokaryotes, Vol. 2., M.S. Mount and G.H. Lacy, ed. Academic Press, New York (1982)). The capacities to elicit the hypersensitive response in a nonhost and be pathogenic in a host appear linked. As noted by Klement, Z., “Hypersensitivity,” pages 149-177 in Phytopathogenic Prokaryotes, Vol. 2., M.S. Mount and G.H. Lacy, ed. Academic Press, New York, these pathogens also cause physiologically similar, albeit delayed, necroses in their interactions with compatible hosts. Furthermore, the ability to produce the hypersensitive response or pathogenesis is dependent on a common set of genes, denoted *hrp* (Lindgren, P.B., et al., “Gene Cluster of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. ‘phaseolicola’ Controls Pathogenicity of Bean Plants and Hypersensitivity on Nonhost Plants,” J. Bacteriol. 168:512-22 (1986); Willis, D.K., et al., “*hrp* Genes of Phytopathogenic Bacteria,” Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact. 4:132-138 (1991)). Consequently, the hypersensitive response may hold clues to both the nature of plant defense and the basis for bacterial pathogenicity.

The *hrp* genes are widespread in gram-negative plant pathogens, where they are clustered, conserved, and in some cases interchangeable (Willis, D.K., et al., “*hrp* Genes of Phytopathogenic Bacteria,” Mol. Plant-Microbe Interact. 4:132-138 (1991); Bonas, U., “*hrp* Genes of Phytopathogenic Bacteria,” pages 79-98 in: Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology: Bacterial Pathogenesis of Plants and Animals - Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms, J.L. Dangel, ed. Springer-Verlag, Berlin (1994)). Several *hrp* genes encode components of a protein secretion pathway similar to one used by *Yersinia*, *Shigella*, and *Salmonella* spp. to secrete proteins essential in animal diseases (Van Gijsegem, et al., “Evolutionary Conservation of Pathogenicity Determinants Among Plant and Animal Pathogenic Bacteria,” Trends Microbiol. 1:175-180 (1993)). In *E. amylovora*, *P. syringae*, and *P. solanacearum*, *hrp* genes have been shown to control the production and secretion of glycine-rich, protein elicitors of the hypersensitive response (He, S.Y., et al. “*Pseudomonas Syringae* pv. *Syringae* HarpinPss: a Protein that is Secreted via the Hrp Pathway and Elicits the Hypersensitive Response in Plants,” Cell 73:1255-1266 (1993), Wei, Z.-H.,

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et al., "HrpI of *Erwinia amylovora* Functions in Secretion of Harpin and is a Member of a New Protein Family," J. Bacteriol. 175:7958-7967 (1993); Arlat, M. et al.

"PopA1, a Protein Which Induces a Hypersensitive-like Response on Specific Petunia Genotypes, is Secreted via the Hrp Pathway of *Pseudomonas solanacearum*," EMBO J. 13:543-553 (1994)).

The first of these proteins was discovered in *E. amylovora* Ea321, a bacterium that causes fire blight of rosaceous plants, and was designated harpin (Wei, Z.-M., et al., "Harpin, Elicitor of the Hypersensitive Response Produced by the Plant Pathogen *Erwinia amylovora*," Science 257:85-88 (1992)). Mutations in the encoding *hrpN* gene revealed that harpin is required for *E. amylovora* to elicit a hypersensitive response in nonhost tobacco leaves and incite disease symptoms in highly susceptible pear fruit. The *P. solanacearum* GMI1000 PopA1 protein has similar physical properties and also elicits the hypersensitive response in leaves of tobacco, which is not a host of that strain (Arlat, et al. "PopA1, a Protein Which Induces a Hypersensitive-like Response on Specific Petunia Genotypes, is Secreted via the Hrp Pathway of *Pseudomonas solanacearum*," EMBO J. 13:543-53 (1994)). However, *P. solanacearum popA* mutants still elicit the hypersensitive response in tobacco and incite disease in tomato. Thus, the role of these glycine-rich hypersensitive response elicitors can vary widely among gram-negative plant pathogens.

Other plant pathogenic hypersensitive response elicitors have been isolated, cloned, and sequenced. These include: *Erwinia chrysanthemi* (Bauer, et. al., "*Erwinia chrysanthemi* Harpin_{Ech}: Soft-Rot Pathogenesis," MPMI 8(4): 484-91 (1995)); *Erwinia carotovora* (Cui, et. al., "The RsmA⁻ Mutants of *Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *carotovora* Strain Ecc71 Overexpress *hrpN*_{Ecc} and Elicit a Hypersensitive Reaction-like Response in Tobacco Leaves," MPMI 9(7): 565-73 (1996)); *Erwinia stewartii* (Ahmad, et. al., "Harpin is not Necessary for the Pathogenicity of *Erwinia stewartii* on Maize," 8th Int'l. Cong. Molec. Plant-Microb. Inter. July 14-19, 1996 and Ahmad, et. al., "Harpin is not Necessary for the Pathogenicity of *Erwinia stewartii* on Maize," Ann. Mtg. Am. Phytopath. Soc. July 27-31, 1996); and *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* (WO 94/26782 to Cornell Research Foundation, Inc.).

The present invention is a further advance in the effort to identify and characterize hypersensitive response elicitor proteins.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One aspect of the present invention is directed to an isolated
5 hypersensitive response elicitor protein comprising a pair of spaced apart domains,
with each comprising an acid portion linked to an alpha-helix.

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to an isolated
hypersensitive response elicitor protein comprising an acid portion linked to an alpha-
helix.

10 Nucleic acid molecules encoding either of these proteins as well as
vectors, host cells, transgenic plants, and transgenic plant seeds containing those
nucleic acid molecules are also disclosed.

The protein of the present invention can be used to impart disease
resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, to control insects, and/or impart stress
15 resistance. This involves applying the protein to plants or plant seeds under
conditions effective to impart disease resistance, to enhance plant growth, to control
insects, and/or impart stress resistance to plants or plants grown from the plant seeds.

As an alternative to applying the protein to plants or plant seeds in
order to impart disease resistance, to enhance plant growth, to control insects on
20 plants, and/or impart stress resistance, transgenic plants or plant seeds can be utilized.
When utilizing transgenic plants, this involves providing a transgenic plant
transformed with a nucleic acid molecule encoding the protein of the present
invention and growing the plant under conditions effective to impart disease
resistance, to enhance plant growth, to control insects, and/or to impart stress
25 resistance to the plants or plants grown from the plant seeds. Alternatively, a
transgenic plant seed transformed with the nucleic acid molecule encoding the protein
of the present invention can be provided and planted in soil. A plant is then
propagated under conditions effective to impart disease resistance, to enhance plant
growth, to control insects, and/or to impart stress resistance to plants or plants grown
30 from the plant seeds.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a schematic drawing showing the construction of a universal expression cassette for a hypersensitive response domain.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to an isolated hypersensitive response elicitor protein comprising a pair of spaced apart domains, with each comprising an acid portion linked to an alpha-helix. The acidic portion is a polypeptide with 10 or more amino acids, is rich in acidic amino acids, and has a pI below 5.0. The acidic portion has a secondary structure in the form of a beta-sheet or a beta-turn. The secondary structure of this unit can also be in an unordered form.

The alpha-helix portion of the present invention is a polypeptide with 10 or more amino acids. Its secondary structure is in the form of a stable alpha-helix.

Another embodiment of the present invention relates to an isolated hypersensitive response elicitor protein comprising an acid portion linked to an alpha-helix.

Both of these proteins are capable of eliciting a hypersensitive response.

The alpha helix is a common structural motif of proteins in which a linear sequence of amino acid folds into a right-handed helix stabilized by internal hydrogen bonding between backbone atoms.

The acidic motif includes a certain combination of amino acids in which a linear sequence with a pI below 5.0 folds into a β sheet, coil, or thin structures but not an alpha helix of secondary structure.

The hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptides or proteins according to the present invention can be derived from hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptides or proteins of a wide variety of fungal and bacterial pathogens. Such polypeptides or proteins are able to elicit local necrosis in plant tissue contacted by the elicitor. Examples of suitable bacterial sources of polypeptide or protein elicitors

09879248-061201

include *Erwinia*, *Pseudomonas*, and *Xanthomonas* species (e.g., the following bacteria: *Erwinia amylovora*, *Erwinia chrysanthemi*, *Erwinia stewartii*, *Erwinia carotovora*, *Pseudomonas syringae*, *Pseudomonas solanacearum*, *Xanthomonas campestris*, and mixtures thereof). In addition to hypersensitive response elicitors from these Gram negative bacteria, it is possible to use elicitors from Gram positive bacteria. One example is *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus*.

An example of a fungal source of a hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide is *Phytophthora*. Suitable species of *Phytophthora* include *Phytophthora parasitica*, *Phytophthora cryptogea*, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, *Phytophthora capsici*, *Phytophthora megasperma*, and *Phytophthora citrophthora*.

The hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein from *Erwinia chrysanthemi* has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ. ID. No. 1 as follows:

15	Met Gln Ile Thr Ile Lys Ala His Ile Gly Gly Asp Leu Gly Val Ser	1 5 10 15
	Gly Leu Gly Ala Gln Gly Leu Lys Gly Leu Asn Ser Ala Ala Ser Ser	20 25 30
20	Leu Gly Ser Ser Val Asp Lys Leu Ser Ser Thr Ile Asp Lys Leu Thr	35 40 45
	Ser Ala Leu Thr Ser Met Met Phe Gly Gly Ala Leu Ala Gln Gly Leu	50 55 60
	Gly Ala Ser Ser Lys Gly Leu Gly Met Ser Asn Gln Leu Gly Gln Ser	65 70 75 80
25	Phe Gly Asn Gly Ala Gln Gly Ala Ser Asn Leu Leu Ser Val Pro Lys	85 90 95
	Ser Gly Gly Asp Ala Leu Ser Lys Met Phe Asp Lys Ala Leu Asp Asp	100 105 110
30	Leu Leu Gly His Asp Thr Val Thr Lys Leu Thr Asn Gln Ser Asn Gln	115 120 125
	Leu Ala Asn Ser Met Leu Asn Ala Ser Gln Met Thr Gln Gly Asn Met	130 135 140
	Asn Ala Phe Gly Ser Gly Val Asn Asn Ala Leu Ser Ser Ile Leu Gly	145 150 155 160
35	Asn Gly Leu Gly Gln Ser Met Ser Gly Phe Ser Gln Pro Ser Leu Gly	165 170 175

09879248-061201

Ala Gly Gly Leu Gln Gly Leu Ser Gly Ala Gly Ala Phe Asn Gln Leu
180 185 190

Gly Asn Ala Ile Gly Met Gly Val Gly Gln Asn Ala Ala Leu Ser Ala
195 200 205

5 Leu Ser Asn Val Ser Thr His Val Asp Gly Asn Asn Arg His Phe Val
210 215 220

Asp Lys Glu Asp Arg Gly Met Ala Lys Glu Ile Gly Gln Phe Met Asp
225 230 235 240

10 Gln Tyr Pro Glu Ile Phe Gly Lys Pro Glu Tyr Gln Lys Asp Gly Trp
245 250 255

Ser Ser Pro Lys Thr Asp Asp Lys Ser Trp Ala Lys Ala Leu Ser Lys
260 265 270

Pro Asp Asp Asp Gly Met Thr Gly Ala Ser Met Asp Lys Phe Arg Gln
275 280 285

15 Ala Met Gly Met Ile Lys Ser Ala Val Ala Gly Asp Thr Gly Asn Thr
290 295 300

Asn Leu Asn Leu Arg Gly Ala Gly Gly Ala Ser Leu Gly Ile Asp Ala
305 310 315 320

20 Ala Val Val Gly Asp Lys Ile Ala Asn Met Ser Leu Gly Lys Leu Ala
325 330 335

Asn Ala

This hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein has a molecular weight of
25 34 kDa, is heat stable, has a glycine content of greater than 16%, and contains
substantially no cysteine. The *Erwinia chrysanthemi* hypersensitive response elicitor
polypeptide or protein is encoded by a DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence
corresponding to SEQ. ID. No. 2 as follows:

30 CGATTTTACC CGGGTGAACG TGCTATGACC GACAGCATCA CGGTATTCTGA CACCGTTACG 60

GCGTTTATGG CCGCGATGAA CCGGCATCAG GCGGCGCGCT GGTCGCCGCA ATCCGGCGTC 120

GATCTGGTAT TTCAGTTTGG GGACACCGGG CGTGAACCTCA TGATGCAGAT TCAGCCGGGG 180

CAGCAATATC CCGGCATGTT GCGCACGCTG CTCGCTCGTC GTTATCAGCA GGCAGCAGAG 240

TGCGATGGCT GCCATCTGTG CCTGAACGGC AGCGATGTAT TGATCCTCTG GTGGCCGCTG 300

35 CCGTCGGATC CCGGCAGTTA TCCGCAGGTG ATCGAACGTT TGTTTGAACCT GGCAGGAATG 360

ACGTTGCCGT CGCTATCCAT AGCACCGACG GCGCGTCCGC AGACAGGGAA CGGACGCGCC 420

CGATCATTA GATAAAGGCG GCTTTTTTTT TTGCAAAACG GTAACGGTGA GGAACCGTTT 480

CACCGTCGGC GTCACTCAGT AACAAAGTATC CATCATGATG CCTACATCGG GATCGGCGTG 540
 GGCATCCGTT GCAGATACTT TTGCGAACAC CTGACATGAA TGAGGAAACG AAATTATGCA 600
 AATTACGATC AAAGCGCACA TCGGCGGTGA TTTGGGCGTC TCCGGTCTGG GGCTGGGTGC 660
 TCAGGGACTG AAAGGACTGA ATTCCGCGGC TTCATCGCTG GGTTCCAGCG TGGATAAACT 720
 5 GAGCAGCACC ATCGATAAGT TGACCTCCGC GCTGACTTCG ATGATGTTTG GCGGCGCGCT 780
 GGCGCAGGGG CTGGGCGCCA GCTCGAAGGG GCTGGGGATG AGCAATCAAC TGGGCCAGTC 840
 TTTTCGGCAAT GGCGCGCAGG GTGCGAGCAA CCTGCTATCC GTACCGAAAT CCGGCGGCGA 900
 TCGGTTGTCA AAAATGTTTG ATAAAGCGCT GGACGATCTG CTGGGTCATG ACACCGTGAC 960
 CAAGCTGACT AACCAGAGCA ACCAACTGGC TAATTCAATG CTGAACGCCA GCCAGATGAC 1020
 10 CCAGGGTAAT ATGAATGCGT TCGGCAGCGG TGTGAACAAC GCACTGTCTG CCATTCTCGG 1080
 CAACGGTCTC GGCCAGTCGA TGAGTGCGTT CTCTCAGCCT TCTCTGGGGG CAGGCGGCTT 1140
 GCAGGGCCTG AGCGGCGCGG GTGCATTCAA CCAGTTGGGT AATGCCATCG GCATGGGCGT 1200
 GGGGCAGAAT GCTGCGCTGA GTGCGTTGAG TAACGTCAGC ACCCACGTAG ACGGTAACAA 1260
 CCGCCACTTT GTAGATAAAG AAGATCGCGG CATGGCGAAA GAGATCGGCC AGTTTATGGA 1320
 15 TCAGTATCCG GAAATATTCG GTAAACCGGA ATACCAGAAA GATGGCTGGA GTTCGCCGAA 1380
 GACGGACGAC AAATCCTGGG CTAAAGCGCT GAGTAAACCG GATGATGACG GTATGACCGG 1440
 CGCCAGCATG GACAAATTCC GTCAGGCGAT GGGTATGATC AAAAGCGCGG TGGCGGGTGA 1500
 TACCGGCAAT ACCAACCTGA ACCTGCGTGG CGCGGGCGGT GCATCGCTGG GTATCGATGC 1560
 GGCTGTCTG GCGGATAAAA TAGCCAACAT GTCGCTGGGT AAGCTGGCCA ACGCCTGATA 1620
 20 ATCTGTGCTG GCCTGATAAA GCGGAAACGA AAAAAGAGAC GGGGAAGCCT GTCTCTTTTC 1680
 TTATTATGCG GTTTATGCGG TTACCTGGAC CGGTTAATCA TCGTCATCGA TCTGGTACAA 1740
 ACGCACATTT TCCCGTTCAT TCGCGTCGTT ACGCGCCACA ATCGCGATGG CATCTTCCTC 1800
 GTCGCTCAGA TTGCGCGGCT GATGGGGAAC GCCGGGTGGA ATATAGAGAA ACTCGCCGGC 1860
 CAGATGGAGA CACGTCTGCG ATAAATCTGT GCCGTAACGT GTTTCTATCC GCCCCTTTAG 1920
 25 CAGATAGATT GCGGTTTCGT AATCAACATG GTAATGCGGT TCCGCCTGTG CGCCGGCCGG 1980
 GATCACCACA ATATTCATAG AAAGCTGTCT TGACCTACC GTATCGCGGG AGATACCGAC 2040
 AAAATAGGGC AGTTTTTTCG TGGTATCCGT GGGGTGTTCC GGCCTGACAA TCTTGAGTTG 2100
 GTTCGTCATC ATCTTTCTCC ATCTGGGCGA CCTGATCGGT T 2141

30 The hypersensitive response elicitor from *Erwinia chrysanthemi* has 2
 hypersensitive response eliciting domains. The first domain extends, within SEQ.

09879248-061201

ID. No. 1, from amino acid 69 to amino acid 122, particularly from amino acid 85 to amino acid 116. The acidic unit in the first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 1, from amino acid 69 to amino acid 102, particularly from amino acid 85 to amino acid 102. The alpha-helix in the first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 1, from amino acid 102 to amino acid 122, particularly from amino acid 102 to amino acid 116. The second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 1, from amino acid 251 to amino acid 299, particularly from amino acid 256 to amino acid 292. The acidic unit in the second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 1, from amino acid 251 to amino acid 279, particularly from amino acid 261 to amino acid 279. The alpha-helix in the second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 1, from amino acid 279 to amino acid 299, particularly from amino acid 279 to amino acid 292.

The hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein derived from *Erwinia amylovora* has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ. ID. No. 3 as follows:

	Met	Ser	Leu	Asn	Thr	Ser	Gly	Leu	Gly	Ala	Ser	Thr	Met	Gln	Ile	Ser	
	1				5					10					15		
	Ile	Gly	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	Asn	Asn	Gly	Leu	Leu	Gly	Thr	Ser	Arg	Gln	
20				20					25					30			
	Asn	Ala	Gly	Leu	Gly	Gly	Asn	Ser	Ala	Leu	Gly	Leu	Gly	Gly	Gly	Asn	
			35					40					45				
	Gln	Asn	Asp	Thr	Val	Asn	Gln	Leu	Ala	Gly	Leu	Leu	Thr	Gly	Met	Met	
	50						55					60					
25	Met	Met	Met	Ser	Met	Met	Gly	Gly	Gly	Gly	Leu	Met	Gly	Gly	Gly	Leu	
	65					70					75					80	
	Gly	Gly	Gly	Leu	Gly	Asn	Gly	Leu	Gly	Gly	Ser	Gly	Gly	Leu	Gly	Glu	
				85					90					95			
	Gly	Leu	Ser	Asn	Ala	Leu	Asn	Asp	Met	Leu	Gly	Gly	Ser	Leu	Asn	Thr	
30				100					105					110			
	Leu	Gly	Ser	Lys	Gly	Gly	Asn	Asn	Thr	Thr	Ser	Thr	Thr	Asn	Ser	Pro	
			115					120					125				
	Leu	Asp	Gln	Ala	Leu	Gly	Ile	Asn	Ser	Thr	Ser	Gln	Asn	Asp	Asp	Ser	
		130					135					140					
35	Thr	Ser	Gly	Thr	Asp	Ser	Thr	Ser	Asp	Ser	Ser	Asp	Pro	Met	Gln	Gln	
	145					150					155					160	

	Leu	Leu	Lys	Met	Phe	Ser	Glu	Ile	Met	Gln	Ser	Leu	Phe	Gly	Asp	Gly	
					165					170					175		
	Gln	Asp	Gly	Thr	Gln	Gly	Ser	Ser	Ser	Gly	Gly	Lys	Gln	Pro	Thr	Glu	
				180					185					190			
5	Gly	Glu	Gln	Asn	Ala	Tyr	Lys	Lys	Gly	Val	Thr	Asp	Ala	Leu	Ser	Gly	
			195					200					205				
	Leu	Met	Gly	Asn	Gly	Leu	Ser	Gln	Leu	Leu	Gly	Asn	Gly	Gly	Leu	Gly	
		210					215					220					
10	Gly	Gly	Gln	Gly	Gly	Asn	Ala	Gly	Thr	Gly	Leu	Asp	Gly	Ser	Ser	Leu	
	225					230					235					240	
	Gly	Gly	Lys	Gly	Leu	Gln	Asn	Leu	Ser	Gly	Pro	Val	Asp	Tyr	Gln	Gln	
				245						250					255		
	Leu	Gly	Asn	Ala	Val	Gly	Thr	Gly	Ile	Gly	Met	Lys	Ala	Gly	Ile	Gln	
				260					265					270			
15	Ala	Leu	Asn	Asp	Ile	Gly	Thr	His	Arg	His	Ser	Ser	Thr	Arg	Ser	Phe	
			275					280					285				
	Val	Asn	Lys	Gly	Asp	Arg	Ala	Met	Ala	Lys	Glu	Ile	Gly	Gln	Phe	Met	
		290					295					300					
20	Asp	Gln	Tyr	Pro	Glu	Val	Phe	Gly	Lys	Pro	Gln	Tyr	Gln	Lys	Gly	Pro	
	305					310					315					320	
	Gly	Gln	Glu	Val	Lys	Thr	Asp	Asp	Lys	Ser	Trp	Ala	Lys	Ala	Leu	Ser	
				325						330					335		
	Lys	Pro	Asp	Asp	Asp	Gly	Met	Thr	Pro	Ala	Ser	Met	Glu	Gln	Phe	Asn	
				340					345					350			
25	Lys	Ala	Lys	Gly	Met	Ile	Lys	Arg	Pro	Met	Ala	Gly	Asp	Thr	Gly	Asn	
			355					360					365				
	Gly	Asn	Leu	Gln	Ala	Arg	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	Ser	Ser	Leu	Gly	Ile	Asp	
		370					375					380					
30	Ala	Met	Met	Ala	Gly	Asp	Ala	Ile	Asn	Asn	Met	Ala	Leu	Gly	Lys	Leu	
	385					390					395					400	
	Gly	Ala	Ala														

This hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein has a molecular weight of about 39 kDa, has a pI of approximately 4.3, and is heat stable at 100°C for at least 10 minutes. This hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein has substantially no cysteine. The hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein derived from *Erwinia amylovora* is more fully described in Wei, Z.-M., R. J. Laby, C. H. Zumoff,

D. W. Bauer, S.-Y. He, A. Collmer, and S. V. Beer, "Harpin, Elicitor of the Hypersensitive Response Produced by the Plant Pathogen *Erwinia amylovora*," Science 257:85-88 (1992), which is hereby incorporated by reference. The DNA molecule encoding this polypeptide or protein has a nucleotide sequence corresponding to SEQ. ID. No. 4 as follows:

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15
20
25

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AAGCTTCGGC ATGGCACGTT TGACCGTTGG GTCGGCAGGG TACGTTTGAA TTATTCATAA      60
GAGGAATACG TTATGAGTCT GAATACAAGT GGGCTGGGAG CGTCAACGAT GCAAATTTCT      120
ATCGGCGGTG CGGGCGGAAA TAACGGGTTG CTGGGTACCA GTCGCCAGAA TGCTGGGTTG      180
GGTGGCAATT CTGCACTGGG GCTGGGCGGC GGTAATCAAA ATGATACCGT CAATCAGCTG      240
GCTGGCTTAC TCACCGGCAT GATGATGATG ATGAGCATGA TGGGCGGTGG TGGGCTGATG      300
GGCGGTGGCT TAGGCGGTGG CTTAGGTAAT GGCTTGGGTG GCTCAGGTGG CCTGGGCGAA      360
GGACTGTCGA ACGCGCTGAA CGATATGTTA GGCGGTTTCG TGAACACGCT GGGCTCGAAA      420
GGCGGCAACA ATACCACTTC AACAAACAAT TCCCCGCTGG ACCAGGCGCT GGGTATTAA      480
TCAACGTCCC AAAACGACGA TTCCACCTCC GGCACAGATT CCACCTCAGA CTCCAGCGAC      540
CCGATGCAGC AGCTGCTGAA GATGTTTCAGC GAGATAATGC AAAGCCTGTT TGGTGATGGG      600
CAAGATGGCA CCCAGGGCAG TTCCTCTGGG GGCAAGCAGC CGACCGAAGG CGAGCAGAAC      660
GCCTATAAAA AAGGAGTCAC TGATGCGCTG TCGGGCCTGA TGGGTAATGG TCTGAGCCAG      720
CTCCTTGGCA ACGGGGGACT GGGAGGTGGT CAGGGCGGTA ATGCTGGCAC GGGTCTTGAC      780
GGTTCGTCGC TGGGCGGCAA AGGGCTGCAA AACCTGAGCG GGCCGGTGGA CTACCAGCAG      840
TTAGGTAACG CCGTGGGTAC CGGTATCGGT ATGAAAGCGG GCATTCAGGC GCTGAATGAT      900
ATCGGTACGC ACAGGCACAG TTCAACCCGT TCTTTCGTCA ATAAAGGCGA TCGGGCGATG      960
GCGAAGGAAA TCGGTCAAGT CATGGACCAG TATCCTGAGG TGTTTGCAA GCCGCAGTAC     1020
CAGAAAGGCC CGGGTCAGGA GGTGAAAACC GATGACAAAT CATGGGCAA AGCACTGAGC     1080
AAGCCAGATG ACGACGGAAT GACACCAGCC AGTATGGAGC AGTTCAACAA AGCCAAGGGC     1140
ATGATCAAAA GGCCCATGGC GGGTGATACC GGCAACGGCA ACCTGCAGGC ACGCGGTGCC     1200
GGTGGTTCTT CGCTGGGTAT TGATGCCATG ATGGCCGGTG ATGCCATTAA CAATATGGCA     1260
CTTGGCAAGC TGGGCGCGGC TTAAGCTT                                     1288
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30 The hypersensitive response elicitor from *Erwinia amylovora* has 2 hypersensitive response eliciting domains. The first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 3, from amino acid 32 to amino acid 74, particularly from amino acid 45 to amino

09879248-061204

acid 68. The acidic unit in the first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 3, from amino acid 32 to amino acid 57, particularly from amino acid 45 to amino acid 57. The alpha-helix in the first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 3, from amino acid 57 to amino acid 74, particularly from amino acid 57 to amino acid 68. The second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 3, from amino acid 130 to amino acid 180, particularly from amino acid 145 to amino acid 170. The acidic unit in the second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 3, from amino acid 130 to amino acid 157, particularly from amino acid 145 to amino acid 157. The alpha-helix in the second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 3, from amino acid 157 to amino acid 180, particularly from amino acid 157 to amino acid 170.

Another potentially suitable hypersensitive response elicitor from *Erwinia amylovora* is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/120,927, which is hereby incorporated by reference. The protein is encoded by a DNA molecule having a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 5 as follows:

15	ATGTCAATTC TTACGCTTAA CAACAATACC TCGTCCTCGC CGGGTCTGTT CCAGTCCGGG	60
	GGGGACAACG GGCTTGGTGG TCATAATGCA AATCTGCGT TGGGGCAACA ACCCATCGAT	120
20	CGGCAAACCA TTGAGCAAAT GGCTCAATTA TTGGCGGAAC TGTAAAGTC ACTGCTATCG	180
	CCACAATCAG GTAATGCGGC AACCGGAGCC GGTGGCAATG ACCAGACTAC AGGAGTTGGT	240
25	AACGCTGGCG GCCTGAACGG ACGAAAAGGC ACAGCAGGAA CCACTCCGCA GTCTGACAGT	300
	CAGAACATGC TGAGTGAGAT GGGCAACAAC GGGCTGGATC AGGCCATCAC GCCCGATGGC	360
	CAGGGCGGCG GGCAGATCGG CGATAATCCT TACTGAAAG CCATGCTGAA GCTTATTGCA	420
30	CGCATGATGG ACGGCCAAAG CGATCAGTTT GGCCAACCTG GTACGGGCAA CAACAGTGCC	480
	TCTTCCGTA CTTCTTCATC TGGCGGTTCC CCTTTAAACG ATCTATCAGG GGGGAAGGCC	540
35	CCTTCCGCA ACTCCCCTTC CGGCAACTAC TCTCCGTC GTACCTTCTC ACCCCCATCC	600
	ACGCCAACGT CCCCTACCTC ACCGCTTGAT TTCCCTTCTT CTCCCACCAA AGCAGCCGGG	660
	GGCAGCACGC CGGTAACCGA TCATCCTGAC CTTGTGGTA GCGCGGCAT CGGGGCCGGA	720
40	AATTCGGTGG CCTTCACCAG CGCCGGCGCT AATCAGACGG TGCTGCATGA CACCATTACC	780
	GTGAAAGCGG GTCAGGTGTT TGATGGCAAA GGACAAACCT TCACCGCCGG TTCAGAATTA	840
45	GGCGATGGCG GCCAGTCTGA AAACCAGAAA CCGCTGTTTA TACTGGAAGA CGGTGCCAGC	900
	CTGAAAAACG TCACCATGGG CGACGACGGG GCGGATGGTA TTCATCTTTA CGGTGATGCC	960
	AAAATAGACA ATCTGCACGT CACCAACGTG GGTGAGGACG CGATTACCGT TAAGCCAAAC	1020
50	AGCGCGGGCA AAAAATCCCA CGTTGAAATC ACTAACAGTT CCTTCGAGCA CGCCTCTGAC	1080

09/120,927

AAGATCCTGC AGCTGAATGC CGATACTAAC CTGAGCGTTG ACAACGTGAA GGCCAAAGAC 1140
 TTTGGTACTT TTGTACGCAC TAACGGCGGT CAACAGGGTA ACTGGGATCT GAATCTGAGC 1200
 CATATCAGCG CAGAAGACGG TAAGTTCTCG TTCGTTAAAA GCGATAGCGA GGGGCTAAAC 1260
 GTCAATACCA GTGATATCTC ACTGGGTGAT GTTGAAAACC ACTACAAAGT GCCGATGTCC 1320
 GCCAACCTGA AGGTGGCTGA ATGA 1344

See GenBank Accession No. U94513. The isolated DNA molecule of the present invention encodes a hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 6 as follows:

15 Met Ser Ile Leu Thr Leu Asn Asn Asn Thr Ser Ser Ser Pro Gly Leu
 1 5 10 15
 20 Phe Gln Ser Gly Gly Asp Asn Gly Leu Gly Gly His Asn Ala Asn Ser
 20 20 25 30
 Ala Leu Gly Gln Gln Pro Ile Asp Arg Gln Thr Ile Glu Gln Met Ala
 35 40 45
 25 Gln Leu Leu Ala Glu Leu Leu Lys Ser Leu Leu Ser Pro Gln Ser Gly
 50 55 60
 Asn Ala Ala Thr Gly Ala Gly Gly Asn Asp Gln Thr Thr Gly Val Gly
 65 70 75 80
 30 Asn Ala Gly Gly Leu Asn Gly Arg Lys Gly Thr Ala Gly Thr Thr Pro
 85 90 95
 35 Gln Ser Asp Ser Gln Asn Met Leu Ser Glu Met Gly Asn Asn Gly Leu
 100 105 110
 Asp Gln Ala Ile Thr Pro Asp Gly Gln Gly Gly Gly Gln Ile Gly Asp
 115 120 125
 40 Asn Pro Leu Leu Lys Ala Met Leu Lys Leu Ile Ala Arg Met Met Asp
 130 135 140
 Gly Gln Ser Asp Gln Phe Gly Gln Pro Gly Thr Gly Asn Asn Ser Ala
 145 150 155 160
 45 Ser Ser Gly Thr Ser Ser Ser Gly Gly Ser Pro Phe Asn Asp Leu Ser
 165 170 175
 50 Gly Gly Lys Ala Pro Ser Gly Asn Ser Pro Ser Gly Asn Tyr Ser Pro
 180 185 190
 Val Ser Thr Phe Ser Pro Pro Ser Thr Pro Thr Ser Pro Thr Ser Pro
 195 200 205
 55 Leu Asp Phe Pro Ser Ser Pro Thr Lys Ala Ala Gly Gly Ser Thr Pro
 210 215 220

09879248-061201

	Val	Thr	Asp	His	Pro	Asp	Pro	Val	Gly	Ser	Ala	Gly	Ile	Gly	Ala	Gly	225			230		235					240
5	Asn	Ser	Val	Ala	Phe	Thr	Ser	Ala	Gly	Ala	Asn	Gln	Thr	Val	Leu	His			245			250				255	
	Asp	Thr	Ile	Thr	Val	Lys	Ala	Gly	Gln	Val	Phe	Asp	Gly	Lys	Gly	Gln			260			265			270		
10	Thr	Phe	Thr	Ala	Gly	Ser	Glu	Leu	Gly	Asp	Gly	Gly	Gln	Ser	Glu	Asn			275			280			285		
	Gln	Lys	Pro	Leu	Phe	Ile	Leu	Glu	Asp	Gly	Ala	Ser	Leu	Lys	Asn	Val			290			295			300		
15	Thr	Met	Gly	Asp	Asp	Gly	Ala	Asp	Gly	Ile	His	Leu	Tyr	Gly	Asp	Ala			305			310			315		320
20	Lys	Ile	Asp	Asn	Leu	His	Val	Thr	Asn	Val	Gly	Glu	Asp	Ala	Ile	Thr			325			330			335		
	Val	Lys	Pro	Asn	Ser	Ala	Gly	Lys	Lys	Ser	His	Val	Glu	Ile	Thr	Asn			340			345			350		
25	Ser	Ser	Phe	Glu	His	Ala	Ser	Asp	Lys	Ile	Leu	Gln	Leu	Asn	Ala	Asp			355			360			365		
	Thr	Asn	Leu	Ser	Val	Asp	Asn	Val	Lys	Ala	Lys	Asp	Phe	Gly	Thr	Phe			370			375			380		
30	Val	Arg	Thr	Asn	Gly	Gly	Gln	Gln	Gly	Asn	Trp	Asp	Leu	Asn	Leu	Ser			385			390			395		400
35	His	Ile	Ser	Ala	Glu	Asp	Gly	Lys	Phe	Ser	Phe	Val	Lys	Ser	Asp	Ser			405			410			415		
	Glu	Gly	Leu	Asn	Val	Asn	Thr	Ser	Asp	Ile	Ser	Leu	Gly	Asp	Val	Glu			420			425			430		
40	Asn	His	Tyr	Lys	Val	Pro	Met	Ser	Ala	Asn	Leu	Lys	Val	Ala	Glu				435			440			445		

This protein or polypeptide is acidic, rich in glycine and serine, and lacks cysteine. It is also heat stable, protease sensitive, and suppressed by inhibitors of plant metabolism. The protein or polypeptide of the present invention has a predicted molecular size of ca. 4.5 kDa.

This hypersensitive response elicitor from *Erwinia amylovora* has 2 hypersensitive response eliciting domains. The first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 6, from amino acid 5 to amino acid 64, particularly from amino acid 31 to amino acid 57. The acidic unit in the first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 6, from amino acid 5 to amino acid 45, particularly from amino acid 31 to amino acid 45. The

alpha-helix in the first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 6, from amino acid 45 to amino acid 64, particularly from amino acid 45 to amino acid 64. The second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 6, from amino acid 103 to amino acid 146, particularly from amino acid 116 to amino acid 140. The acidic unit in the second domain
5 extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 6, from amino acid 103 to amino acid 131, particularly from amino acid 116 to amino acid 131. The alpha-helix in the second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 6, from amino acid 131 to amino acid 146, particularly from amino acid 131 to amino acid 140.

Another potentially suitable hypersensitive response elicitor from
10 *Erwinia amylovora* is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/120,663, which is hereby incorporated by reference. The protein is encoded by a DNA molecule having a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 7 as follows:

15 ATGGAATTAA AATCACTGGG AACTGAACAC AAGGCGGCAG TACACACAGC GGCGCACAAC 60
CCTGTGGGGC ATGGTGTTCG CTTACAGCAG GGCAGCAGCA GCAGCAGCCC GCAAATGCC 120
GCTGCATCAT TGGCGGCAGA AGGCAAAAAT CGTGGGAAAA TGCCGAGAAT TCACCAGCCA 180
20 TCTACTGCGG CTGATGGTAT CAGCGCTGCT CACCAGCAAA AGAAATCCTT CAGTCTCAGG 240
GGCTGTTTGG GGACGAAAAA ATTTTCCAGA TCGGCACCGC AGGGCCAGCC AGGTACCACC 300
CACAGCAAAG GGGCAACATT GCGCGATCTG CTGGCGCGGG ACGACGGCGA AACGCAGCAT 360
25 GAGGCGGCCG CGCCAGATGC GGC CGTTCG ACCCGTTCGG GCGGCGTCAA ACGCCGCAAT 420
ATGGACGACA TGGCCGGGCG GCCAATGGTG AAAGGTGGCA GCGGCGAAGA TAAGGTACCA 480
30 ACGCAGCAAA AACGGCATCA GCTGAACAAT TTTGGCCAGA TGCGCCAAAC GATGTTGAGC 540
AAAATGGCTC ACCCGGCTTC AGCCAACGCC GGC GATCGCC TGCAGCATTC ACCGCCGCAC 600
ATCCCGGGTA GCCACCACGA AATCAAGGAA GAACCGGTTG GCTCCACCAG CAAGGCAACA 660
35 ACGGCCACG CAGACAGAGT GGAAATCGCT CAGGAAGATG ACGACAGCGA ATTCCAGCAA 720
CTGCATCAAC AGCGGCTGGC GCGCGAACGG GAAAATCCAC CGCAGCCGCC CAAACTCGGC 780
40 GTTGCCACAC CGATTAGCGC CAGGTTTCAG CCCAACTGA CTGCGGTTGC GGAAAGCGTC 840
CTTGAGGGGA CAGATACCAC GCAGTCACCC CTTAAGCCGC AATCAATGCT GAAAGGAAGT 900
GGAGCCGGGG TAACGCCGCT GGCGGTAACG CTGGATAAAG GCAAGTTGCA GCTGGCACCG 960
45 GATAATCCAC CCGCGCTCAA TACGTTGTTG AAGCAGACAT TGGGTAAAGA CACCCAGCAC 1020
TATCTGGCGC ACCATGCCAG CAGCGACGGT AGCCAGCATC TGCTGCTGGA CAACAAAGGC 1080
50 CACCTGTTTG ATATCAAAAG CACCGCCACC AGCTATAGCG TGCTGCACAA CAGCCACCCC 1140
GGTGAGATAA AGGGCAAGCT GGCGCAGGCG GGTACTGGCT CCGTCAGCGT AGACGGTAAA 1200

09879248-061201

	AGCGGCAAGA	TCTCGCTGGG	GAGCGGTACG	CAAAGTCACA	ACAAAACAAT	GCTAAGCCAA	1260
	CCGGGGGAAG	CGCACCGTTC	CTTATTAACC	GGCATTTTGGC	AGCATCCTGC	TGGCGCAGCG	1320
5	CGGCCGCAGG	GCGAGTCAAT	CCGCCTGCAT	GACGACAAAA	TTCATATCCT	GCATCCGGAG	1380
	CTGGGCGTAT	GGCAATCTGC	GGATAAAGAT	ACCCACAGCC	AGCTGTCTCG	CCAGGCAGAC	1440
10	GGTAAGCTCT	ATGCGCTGAA	AGACAACCGT	ACCCTGCAAA	ACCTCTCCGA	TAATAAATCC	1500
	TCAGAAAAGC	TGGTCGATAA	AATCAAATCG	TATTCCGTTG	ATCAGCGGGG	GCAGGTGGCG	1560
	ATCCTGACGG	ATACTCCCGG	CCGCCATAAG	ATGAGTATTA	TGCCCTCGCT	GGATGCTTCC	1620
15	CCGGAGAGCC	ATATTTCCCT	CAGCCTGCAT	TTTGCCGATG	CCCACCAGGG	GTTATTGCAC	1680
	GGGAAGTCGG	AGCTTGAGGC	ACAATCTGTC	GCGATCAGCC	ATGGGCGACT	GGTTGTGGCC	1740
20	GATAGCGAAG	GCAAGCTGTT	TAGCGCCGCC	ATTCCGAAGC	AAGGGGATGG	AAACGAACTG	1800
	AAAATGAAAG	CCATGCCTCA	GCATGCGCTC	GATGAACATT	TTGGTCATGA	CCACCAGATT	1860
	TCTGGATTTT	TCCATGACGA	CCACGGCCAG	CTTAATGCGC	TGGTGAAAAA	TAACCTCAGG	1920
25	CAGCAGCATG	CCTGCCCCGT	GGGTAACGAT	CATCAGTTTC	ACCCCGGCTG	GAACCTGACT	1980
	GATGCGCTGG	TTATCGACAA	TCAGCTGGGG	CTGCATCATA	CCAATCCTGA	ACCGCATGAG	2040
30	ATTCTTGATA	TGGGGCATT	AGGCAGCCTG	GCGTTACAGG	AGGGCAAGCT	TCACTATTTT	2100
	GACCAGCTGA	CCAAAGGGTG	GACTGGCGCG	GAGTCAGATT	GTAAGCAGCT	GAAAAAAGGC	2160
	CTGGATGGAG	CAGCTTATCT	ACTGAAAGAC	GGTGAAGTGA	AACGCCTGAA	TATTAATCAG	2220
35	AGCACCTCCT	CTATCAAGCA	CGGAACGGAA	AACGTTTTTT	CGCTGCCGCA	TGTGCGCAAT	2280
	AAACCGGAGC	CGGGAGATGC	CCTGCAAGGG	CTGAATAAAG	ACGATAAGGC	CCAGGCCATG	2340
40	GCGGTGATTG	GGGTAAATAA	ATACCTGGCG	CTGACGGAAA	AAGGGGACAT	TCGCTCCTTC	2400
	CAGATAAAAC	CCGGCACCCA	GCAGTTGGAG	CGGCCGGCAC	AAACTCTCAG	CCGCGAAGGT	2460
	ATCAGCGGCG	AACTGAAAGA	CATTTCATGTC	GACCACAAGC	AGAACCTGTA	TGCCTTGACC	2520
45	CACGAGGGAG	AGGTGTTTCA	TCAGCCGCGT	GAAGCCTGGC	AGAATGGTGC	CGAAAGCAGC	2580
	AGCTGGCACA	AACTGGCGTT	GCCACAGAGT	GAAAGTAAGC	TAAAAAGTCT	GGACATGAGC	2640
50	CATGAGCACA	AACCGATTGC	CACCTTTGAA	GACGGTAGCC	AGCATCAGCT	GAAGGCTGGC	2700
	GGCTGGCACG	CCTATGCGGC	ACCTGAACGC	GGGCCGCTGG	CGGTGGGTAC	CAGCGGTTCA	2760
	CAAACCGTCT	TTAACCGACT	AATGCAGGGG	GTGAAAGGCA	AGGTGATCCC	AGGCAGCGGG	2820
55	TTGACGGTTA	AGCTCTCGGC	TCAGACGGGG	GGAATGACCG	GCGCCGAAGG	GCGCAAGGTC	2880
	AGCAGTAAAT	TTTCCGAAAG	GATCCGCGCC	TATGCGTTCA	ACCCAACAAT	GTCCACGCCG	2940
60	CGACCGATTA	AAAATGCTGC	TTATGCCACA	CAGCACGGCT	GGCAGGGGCG	TGAGGGGTTG	3000
	AAGCCGTTGT	ACGAGATGCA	GGGAGCGCTG	ATTAAACAAC	TGGATGCGCA	TAACGTTCGT	3060
	CATAACGCGC	CACAGCCAGA	TTTGAGAGC	AACTGGAAA	CTCTGGATTT	AGGCGAACAT	3120
65	GGCGCAGAAT	TGCTTAACGA	CATGAAGCGC	TTCCGCGACG	AACTGGAGCA	GAGTGCAACC	3180

09879248-061201

	CGTTCGGTGA	CCGTTTTAGG	TCAACATCAG	GGAGTGCTAA	AAAGCAACGG	TGAAATCAAT	3240
5	AGCGAATTTA	AGCCATCGCC	CGGCAAGGCG	TTGGTCCAGA	GCTTTAACGT	CAATCGCTCT	3300
	GGTCAGGATC	TAAGCAAGTC	ACTGCAACAG	GCAGTACATG	CCACGCCGCC	ATCCGCAGAG	3360
	AGTAAACTGC	AATCCATGCT	GGGGCACTTT	GTCAGTGCCG	GGGTGGATAT	GAGTCATCAG	3420
10	AAGGGCGAGA	TCCCCTGGG	CCGCCAGCGC	GATCCGAATG	ATAAAACCGC	ACTGACCAAA	3480
	TCGCGTTTTAA	TTTLAGATAC	CGTGACCATC	GGTGAAGTGC	ATGAAGTGGC	CGATAAGGCG	3540
15	AAACTGGTAT	CTGACCATAA	ACCCGATGCC	GATCAGATAA	AACAGCTGCG	CCAGCAGTTC	3600
	GATACGCTGC	GTGAAAAGCG	GTATGAGAGC	AATCCGGTGA	AGCATTACAC	CGATATGGGC	3660
	TTCACCCATA	ATAAGGCGCT	GGAAGCAAAC	TATGATGCGG	TCAAAGCCTT	TATCAATGCC	3720
20	TTTAAGAAAG	AGCACCACGG	CGTCAATCTG	ACCACGCGTA	CCGTACTGGA	ATCACAGGGC	3780
	AGTGCGGAGC	TGGCGAAGAA	GCTCAAGAAT	ACGCTGTTGT	CCCTGGACAG	TGGTGAAAGT	3840
25	ATGAGCTTCA	GCCGGTCATA	TGGCGGGGGC	GTCAGCACTG	TCTTTGTGCC	TACCTTAGC	3900
	AAGAAGGTGC	CAGTTCCGGT	GATCCCCGGA	GCCGGCATCA	CGCTGGATCG	CGCCTATAAC	3960
	CTGAGCTTCA	GTCGTACCAG	CGGCGGATTG	AACGTCAGTT	TTGGCCGCGA	CGGCGGGGTG	4020
30	AGTGGAACA	TCATGGTCGC	TACCGGCCAT	GATGTGATGC	CCTATATGAC	CGGTAAGAAA	4080
	ACCAGTGCAG	GTAACGCCAG	TGACTGGTTG	AGCGCAAAAC	ATAAAATCAG	CCCGGACTTG	4140
35	CGTATCGGCG	CTGCTGTGAG	TGGCACCTTG	CAAGGAACGC	TACAAAACAG	CCTGAAGTTT	4200
	AAGCTGACAG	AGGATGAGCT	GCCTGGCTTT	ATCCATGGCT	TGACGCATGG	CACGTTGACC	4260
	CCGGCAGAAC	TGTTGCAAAA	GGGGATCGAA	CATCAGATGA	AGCAGGGCAG	CAAAGTGACG	4320
40	TTTAGCGTCG	ATACCTCGGC	AAATCTGGAT	CTGCGTGCCG	GTATCAATCT	GAACGAAGAC	4380
	GGCAGTAAAC	CAAATGGTGT	CACTGCCCCG	GTTTCTGCCG	GGCTAAGTGC	ATCGGCAAAAC	4440
45	CTGGCCGCCG	GCTCGCGTGA	ACGAGCACC	ACCTCTGGCC	AGTTTGGCAG	CACGACTTCG	4500
	GCCAGCAATA	ACCGCCCAAC	CTTCCTCAAC	GGGGTCGGCG	CGGGTGCTAA	CCTGACGGCT	4560
	GCTTTAGGGG	TTGCCCATTC	ATCTACGCAT	GAAGGGAAAC	CGGTCGGGAT	CTTCCCGGCA	4620
50	TTTACCTCGA	CCAATGTTTC	GGCAGCGCTG	GCGCTGGATA	ACCGTACCTC	ACAGAGTATC	4680
	AGCCTGGAAT	TGAAGCGCGC	GGAGCCGGTG	ACCAGCAACG	ATATCAGCGA	GTTGACCTCC	4740
55	ACGCTGGGAA	AACACTTTAA	GGATAGCGCC	ACAACGAAGA	TGCTTGCCGC	TCTCAAAGAG	4800
	TTAGATGACG	CTAAGCCCGC	TGAACAACTG	CATATTTTAC	AGCAGCATTT	CAGTGCAAAA	4860
	GATGTCGTCG	GTGATGAACG	CTACGAGGCG	GTGCGCAACC	TGAAAAAACT	GGTGATACGT	4920
60	CAACAGGCTG	CGGACAGCCA	CAGCATGGAA	TTAGGATCTG	CCAGTCACAG	CACGACCTAC	4980
	AATAATCTGT	CGAGAATAAA	TAATGACGGC	ATTGTCGAGC	TGCTACACAA	ACATTTTCGAT	5040
65	GCGGCATTAC	CAGCAAGCAG	TGCCAAACGT	CTTGGTGAAA	TGATGAATAA	CGATCCGGCA	5100

09879248 061201

CTGAAAGATA TTATTAAGCA GCTGCAAAGT ACGCCGTTCA GCAGCGCCAG CGTGTCTGATG 5160
 GAGCTGAAAG ATGGTCTGCG TGAGCAGACG GAAAAAGCAA TACTGGACGG TAAGGTCGGT 5220
 5 CGTGAAGAAG TGGGAGTACT TTTCCAGGAT CGTAACAACCT TGCCTGTTAA ATCGGTCAGC 5280
 GTCAGTCAGT CCGTCAGCAA AAGCGAAGGC TTCAATACCC CAGCGCTGTT ACTGGGGACG 5340
 AGCAACAGCG CTGCTATGAG CATGGAGCGC AACATCGGAA CCATTAATTT TAAATACGGC 5400
 10 CAGGATCAGA ACACCCACG GCGATTACC CTGGAGGGTG GAATAGCTCA GGCTAATCCG 5460
 CAGGTCGCAT CTGCGCTTAC TGATTTGAAG AAGGAAGGC TGGAAATGAA GAGCTAA 5517

15 This DNA molecule is known as the dspE gene for *Erwinia amylovora*. This isolated DNA molecule of the present invention encodes a protein or polypeptide which elicits a plant pathogen's hypersensitive response having an amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 8 as follows:

20 Met Glu Leu Lys Ser Leu Gly Thr Glu His Lys Ala Ala Val His Thr
 1 5 10 15
 25 Ala Ala His Asn Pro Val Gly His Gly Val Ala Leu Gln Gln Gly Ser
 20 25 30
 Ser Ser Ser Ser Pro Gln Asn Ala Ala Ala Ser Leu Ala Ala Glu Gly
 35 40 45
 30 Lys Asn Arg Gly Lys Met Pro Arg Ile His Gln Pro Ser Thr Ala Ala
 50 55 60
 Asp Gly Ile Ser Ala Ala His Gln Gln Lys Lys Ser Phe Ser Leu Arg
 65 70 75 80
 35 Gly Cys Leu Gly Thr Lys Lys Phe Ser Arg Ser Ala Pro Gln Gly Gln
 85 90 95
 40 Pro Gly Thr Thr His Ser Lys Gly Ala Thr Leu Arg Asp Leu Leu Ala
 100 105 110
 Arg Asp Asp Gly Glu Thr Gln His Glu Ala Ala Ala Pro Asp Ala Ala
 115 120 125
 45 Arg Leu Thr Arg Ser Gly Gly Val Lys Arg Arg Asn Met Asp Asp Met
 130 135 140
 Ala Gly Arg Pro Met Val Lys Gly Gly Ser Gly Glu Asp Lys Val Pro
 145 150 155 160
 50 Thr Gln Gln Lys Arg His Gln Leu Asn Asn Phe Gly Gln Met Arg Gln
 165 170 175
 55 Thr Met Leu Ser Lys Met Ala His Pro Ala Ser Ala Asn Ala Gly Asp
 180 185 190
 Arg Leu Gln His Ser Pro Pro His Ile Pro Gly Ser His His Glu Ile
 195 200 205

09879248 061201

	Lys	Glu	Glu	Pro	Val	Gly	Ser	Thr	Ser	Lys	Ala	Thr	Thr	Ala	His	Ala	
	210						215					220					
5	Asp	Arg	Val	Glu	Ile	Ala	Gln	Glu	Asp	Asp	Asp	Ser	Glu	Phe	Gln	Gln	
	225					230				235						240	
	Leu	His	Gln	Gln	Arg	Leu	Ala	Arg	Glu	Arg	Glu	Asn	Pro	Pro	Gln	Pro	
					245					250					255		
10	Pro	Lys	Leu	Gly	Val	Ala	Thr	Pro	Ile	Ser	Ala	Arg	Phe	Gln	Pro	Lys	
				260					265					270			
	Leu	Thr	Ala	Val	Ala	Glu	Ser	Val	Leu	Glu	Gly	Thr	Asp	Thr	Thr	Gln	
15			275					280					285				
	Ser	Pro	Leu	Lys	Pro	Gln	Ser	Met	Leu	Lys	Gly	Ser	Gly	Ala	Gly	Val	
		290					295					300					
20	Thr	Pro	Leu	Ala	Val	Thr	Leu	Asp	Lys	Gly	Lys	Leu	Gln	Leu	Ala	Pro	
	305					310						315				320	
	Asp	Asn	Pro	Pro	Ala	Leu	Asn	Thr	Leu	Leu	Lys	Gln	Thr	Leu	Gly	Lys	
					325					330					335		
25	Asp	Thr	Gln	His	Tyr	Leu	Ala	His	His	Ala	Ser	Ser	Asp	Gly	Ser	Gln	
				340					345					350			
	His	Leu	Leu	Leu	Asp	Asn	Lys	Gly	His	Leu	Phe	Asp	Ile	Lys	Ser	Thr	
30			355					360					365				
	Ala	Thr	Ser	Tyr	Ser	Val	Leu	His	Asn	Ser	His	Pro	Gly	Glu	Ile	Lys	
		370					375					380					
35	Gly	Lys	Leu	Ala	Gln	Ala	Gly	Thr	Gly	Ser	Val	Ser	Val	Asp	Gly	Lys	
	385					390					395					400	
	Ser	Gly	Lys	Ile	Ser	Leu	Gly	Ser	Gly	Thr	Gln	Ser	His	Asn	Lys	Thr	
				405						410					415		
40	Met	Leu	Ser	Gln	Pro	Gly	Glu	Ala	His	Arg	Ser	Leu	Leu	Thr	Gly	Ile	
				420					425					430			
	Trp	Gln	His	Pro	Ala	Gly	Ala	Ala	Arg	Pro	Gln	Gly	Glu	Ser	Ile	Arg	
45			435					440					445				
	Leu	His	Asp	Asp	Lys	Ile	His	Ile	Leu	His	Pro	Glu	Leu	Gly	Val	Trp	
		450				455						460					
50	Gln	Ser	Ala	Asp	Lys	Asp	Thr	His	Ser	Gln	Leu	Ser	Arg	Gln	Ala	Asp	
	465					470					475					480	
	Gly	Lys	Leu	Tyr	Ala	Leu	Lys	Asp	Asn	Arg	Thr	Leu	Gln	Asn	Leu	Ser	
				485					490						495		
55	Asp	Asn	Lys	Ser	Ser	Glu	Lys	Leu	Val	Asp	Lys	Ile	Lys	Ser	Tyr	Ser	
				500					505					510			
	Val	Asp	Gln	Arg	Gly	Gln	Val	Ala	Ile	Leu	Thr	Asp	Thr	Pro	Gly	Arg	
60			515					520					525				
	His	Lys	Met	Ser	Ile	Met	Pro	Ser	Leu	Asp	Ala	Ser	Pro	Glu	Ser	His	
		530					535					540					
65	Ile	Ser	Leu	Ser	Leu	His	Phe	Ala	Asp	Ala	His	Gln	Gly	Leu	Leu	His	
	545					550					555					560	

09879248-061201

	Gly	Lys	Ser	Glu	Leu	Glu	Ala	Gln	Ser	Val	Ala	Ile	Ser	His	Gly	Arg	
					565					570					575		
5	Leu	Val	Val	Ala	Asp	Ser	Glu	Gly	Lys	Leu	Phe	Ser	Ala	Ala	Ile	Pro	
				580					585					590			
	Lys	Gln	Gly	Asp	Gly	Asn	Glu	Leu	Lys	Met	Lys	Ala	Met	Pro	Gln	His	
			595					600					605				
10	Ala	Leu	Asp	Glu	His	Phe	Gly	His	Asp	His	Gln	Ile	Ser	Gly	Phe	Phe	
		610					615					620					
	His	Asp	Asp	His	Gly	Gln	Leu	Asn	Ala	Leu	Val	Lys	Asn	Asn	Phe	Arg	
15		625				630					635				640		
	Gln	Gln	His	Ala	Cys	Pro	Leu	Gly	Asn	Asp	His	Gln	Phe	His	Pro	Gly	
					645					650					655		
20	Trp	Asn	Leu	Thr	Asp	Ala	Leu	Val	Ile	Asp	Asn	Gln	Leu	Gly	Leu	His	
				660					665					670			
	His	Thr	Asn	Pro	Glu	Pro	His	Glu	Ile	Leu	Asp	Met	Gly	His	Leu	Gly	
25			675					680					685				
	Ser	Leu	Ala	Leu	Gln	Glu	Gly	Lys	Leu	His	Tyr	Phe	Asp	Gln	Leu	Thr	
		690					695					700					
	Lys	Gly	Trp	Thr	Gly	Ala	Glu	Ser	Asp	Cys	Lys	Gln	Leu	Lys	Lys	Gly	
30		705				710					715				720		
	Leu	Asp	Gly	Ala	Ala	Tyr	Leu	Leu	Lys	Asp	Gly	Glu	Val	Lys	Arg	Leu	
					725					730					735		
35	Asn	Ile	Asn	Gln	Ser	Thr	Ser	Ser	Ile	Lys	His	Gly	Thr	Glu	Asn	Val	
				740					745					750			
	Phe	Ser	Leu	Pro	His	Val	Arg	Asn	Lys	Pro	Glu	Pro	Gly	Asp	Ala	Leu	
40			755					760					765				
	Gln	Gly	Leu	Asn	Lys	Asp	Asp	Lys	Ala	Gln	Ala	Met	Ala	Val	Ile	Gly	
		770					775					780					
	Val	Asn	Lys	Tyr	Leu	Ala	Leu	Thr	Glu	Lys	Gly	Asp	Ile	Arg	Ser	Phe	
45		785				790					795				800		
	Gln	Ile	Lys	Pro	Gly	Thr	Gln	Gln	Leu	Glu	Arg	Pro	Ala	Gln	Thr	Leu	
				805						810					815		
50	Ser	Arg	Glu	Gly	Ile	Ser	Gly	Glu	Leu	Lys	Asp	Ile	His	Val	Asp	His	
				820					825					830			
	Lys	Gln	Asn	Leu	Tyr	Ala	Leu	Thr	His	Glu	Gly	Glu	Val	Phe	His	Gln	
			835					840					845				
55	Pro	Arg	Glu	Ala	Trp	Gln	Asn	Gly	Ala	Glu	Ser	Ser	Ser	Trp	His	Lys	
		850					855					860					
	Leu	Ala	Leu	Pro	Gln	Ser	Glu	Ser	Lys	Leu	Lys	Ser	Leu	Asp	Met	Ser	
60		865				870					875				880		
	His	Glu	His	Lys	Pro	Ile	Ala	Thr	Phe	Glu	Asp	Gly	Ser	Gln	His	Gln	
				885						890					895		

009879248 061201

Leu Lys Ala Gly Gly Trp His Ala Tyr Ala Ala Pro Glu Arg Gly Pro
900 905 910

5 Leu Ala Val Gly Thr Ser Gly Ser Gln Thr Val Phe Asn Arg Leu Met
915 920 925

Gln Gly Val Lys Gly Lys Val Ile Pro Gly Ser Gly Leu Thr Val Lys
930 935 940

10 Leu Ser Ala Gln Thr Gly Gly Met Thr Gly Ala Glu Gly Arg Lys Val
945 950 955 960

Ser Ser Lys Phe Ser Glu Arg Ile Arg Ala Tyr Ala Phe Asn Pro Thr
965 970 975

15 Met Ser Thr Pro Arg Pro Ile Lys Asn Ala Ala Tyr Ala Thr Gln His
980 985 990

20 Gly Trp Gln Gly Arg Glu Gly Leu Lys Pro Leu Tyr Glu Met Gln Gly
995 1000 1005

Ala Leu Ile Lys Gln Leu Asp Ala His Asn Val Arg His Asn Ala Pro
1010 1015 1020

25 Gln Pro Asp Leu Gln Ser Lys Leu Glu Thr Leu Asp Leu Gly Glu His
1025 1030 1035 1040

Gly Ala Glu Leu Leu Asn Asp Met Lys Arg Phe Arg Asp Glu Leu Glu
1045 1050 1055

30 Gln Ser Ala Thr Arg Ser Val Thr Val Leu Gly Gln His Gln Gly Val
1060 1065 1070

Leu Lys Ser Asn Gly Glu Ile Asn Ser Glu Phe Lys Pro Ser Pro Gly
1075 1080 1085

Lys Ala Leu Val Gln Ser Phe Asn Val Asn Arg Ser Gly Gln Asp Leu
1090 1095 1100

40 Ser Lys Ser Leu Gln Gln Ala Val His Ala Thr Pro Pro Ser Ala Glu
1105 1110 1115 1120

Ser Lys Leu Gln Ser Met Leu Gly His Phe Val Ser Ala Gly Val Asp
1125 1130 1135

45 Met Ser His Gln Lys Gly Glu Ile Pro Leu Gly Arg Gln Arg Asp Pro
1140 1145 1150

Asn Asp Lys Thr Ala Leu Thr Lys Ser Arg Leu Ile Leu Asp Thr Val
1155 1160 1165

Thr Ile Gly Glu Leu His Glu Leu Ala Asp Lys Ala Lys Leu Val Ser
1170 1175 1180

55 Asp His Lys Pro Asp Ala Asp Gln Ile Lys Gln Leu Arg Gln Gln Phe
1185 1190 1195 1200

Asp Thr Leu Arg Glu Lys Arg Tyr Glu Ser Asn Pro Val Lys His Tyr
1205 1210 1215

60 Thr Asp Met Gly Phe Thr His Asn Lys Ala Leu Glu Ala Asn Tyr Asp
1220 1225 1230

Ala Val Lys Ala Phe Ile Asn Ala Phe Lys Lys Glu His His Gly Val
1235 1240 1245

65

09879248-061201

	Asn	Leu	Thr	Thr	Arg	Thr	Val	Leu	Glu	Ser	Gln	Gly	Ser	Ala	Glu	Leu	
	1250						1255					1260					
5	Ala	Lys	Lys	Leu	Lys	Asn	Thr	Leu	Leu	Ser	Leu	Asp	Ser	Gly	Glu	Ser	
	1265					1270					1275					1280	
	Met	Ser	Phe	Ser	Arg	Ser	Tyr	Gly	Gly	Gly	Val	Ser	Thr	Val	Phe	Val	
					1285						1290					1295	
10	Pro	Thr	Leu	Ser	Lys	Lys	Val	Pro	Val	Pro	Val	Ile	Pro	Gly	Ala	Gly	
					1300					1305					1310		
	Ile	Thr	Leu	Asp	Arg	Ala	Tyr	Asn	Leu	Ser	Phe	Ser	Arg	Thr	Ser	Gly	
15					1315				1320					1325			
	Gly	Leu	Asn	Val	Ser	Phe	Gly	Arg	Asp	Gly	Gly	Val	Ser	Gly	Asn	Ile	
					1330				1335				1340				
20	Met	Val	Ala	Thr	Gly	His	Asp	Val	Met	Pro	Tyr	Met	Thr	Gly	Lys	Lys	
	1345						1350					1355				1360	
	Thr	Ser	Ala	Gly	Asn	Ala	Ser	Asp	Trp	Leu	Ser	Ala	Lys	His	Lys	Ile	
					1365						1370					1375	
25	Ser	Pro	Asp	Leu	Arg	Ile	Gly	Ala	Ala	Val	Ser	Gly	Thr	Leu	Gln	Gly	
					1380				1385						1390		
	Thr	Leu	Gln	Asn	Ser	Leu	Lys	Phe	Lys	Leu	Thr	Glu	Asp	Glu	Leu	Pro	
30					1395				1400					1405			
	Gly	Phe	Ile	His	Gly	Leu	Thr	His	Gly	Thr	Leu	Thr	Pro	Ala	Glu	Leu	
					1410				1415					1420			
35	Leu	Gln	Lys	Gly	Ile	Glu	His	Gln	Met	Lys	Gln	Gly	Ser	Lys	Leu	Thr	
	1425						1430					1435				1440	
	Phe	Ser	Val	Asp	Thr	Ser	Ala	Asn	Leu	Asp	Leu	Arg	Ala	Gly	Ile	Asn	
					1445						1450					1455	
40	Leu	Asn	Glu	Asp	Gly	Ser	Lys	Pro	Asn	Gly	Val	Thr	Ala	Arg	Val	Ser	
					1460					1465					1470		
	Ala	Gly	Leu	Ser	Ala	Ser	Ala	Asn	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gly	Ser	Arg	Glu	Arg	
45					1475				1480					1485			
	Ser	Thr	Thr	Ser	Gly	Gln	Phe	Gly	Ser	Thr	Thr	Ser	Ala	Ser	Asn	Asn	
					1490				1495					1500			
50	Arg	Pro	Thr	Phe	Leu	Asn	Gly	Val	Gly	Ala	Gly	Ala	Asn	Leu	Thr	Ala	
	1505						1510					1515				1520	
	Ala	Leu	Gly	Val	Ala	His	Ser	Ser	Thr	His	Glu	Gly	Lys	Pro	Val	Gly	
					1525						1530					1535	
55	Ile	Phe	Pro	Ala	Phe	Thr	Ser	Thr	Asn	Val	Ser	Ala	Ala	Leu	Ala	Leu	
					1540					1545					1550		
	Asp	Asn	Arg	Thr	Ser	Gln	Ser	Ile	Ser	Leu	Glu	Leu	Lys	Arg	Ala	Glu	
60					1555					1560					1565		
	Pro	Val	Thr	Ser	Asn	Asp	Ile	Ser	Glu	Leu	Thr	Ser	Thr	Leu	Gly	Lys	
					1570					1575					1580		

09079248-061201

His Phe Lys Asp Ser Ala Thr Thr Lys Met Leu Ala Ala Leu Lys Glu
 1585 1590 1595 1600
 5 Leu Asp Asp Ala Lys Pro Ala Glu Gln Leu His Ile Leu Gln Gln His
 1605 1610 1615
 Phe Ser Ala Lys Asp Val Val Gly Asp Glu Arg Tyr Glu Ala Val Arg
 1620 1625 1630
 10 Asn Leu Lys Lys Leu Val Ile Arg Gln Gln Ala Ala Asp Ser His Ser
 1635 1640 1645
 Met Glu Leu Gly Ser Ala Ser His Ser Thr Thr Tyr Asn Asn Leu Ser
 1650 1655 1660
 15 Arg Ile Asn Asn Asp Gly Ile Val Glu Leu Leu His Lys His Phe Asp
 1665 1670 1675 1680
 20 Ala Ala Leu Pro Ala Ser Ser Ala Lys Arg Leu Gly Glu Met Met Asn
 1685 1690 1695
 Asn Asp Pro Ala Leu Lys Asp Ile Ile Lys Gln Leu Gln Ser Thr Pro
 1700 1705 1710
 25 Phe Ser Ser Ala Ser Val Ser Met Glu Leu Lys Asp Gly Leu Arg Glu
 1715 1720 1725
 Gln Thr Glu Lys Ala Ile Leu Asp Gly Lys Val Gly Arg Glu Glu Val
 1730 1735 1740
 30 Gly Val Leu Phe Gln Asp Arg Asn Asn Leu Arg Val Lys Ser Val Ser
 1745 1750 1755 1760
 35 Val Ser Gln Ser Val Ser Lys Ser Glu Gly Phe Asn Thr Pro Ala Leu
 1765 1770 1775
 Leu Leu Gly Thr Ser Asn Ser Ala Ala Met Ser Met Glu Arg Asn Ile
 1780 1785 1790
 40 Gly Thr Ile Asn Phe Lys Tyr Gly Gln Asp Gln Asn Thr Pro Arg Arg
 1795 1800 1805
 Phe Thr Leu Glu Gly Gly Ile Ala Gln Ala Asn Pro Gln Val Ala Ser
 1810 1815 1820
 45 Ala Leu Thr Asp Leu Lys Lys Glu Gly Leu Glu Met Lys Ser
 1825 1830 1835

50 This protein or polypeptide is about 198 kDa and has a pI of 8.98.

The present invention relates to an isolated DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 9 as follows:

55 ATGACATCGT CACAGCAGCG GGTGAAAGG TTTTACAGT ATTTCTCCGC CGGGTGTAAG 60
 ACGCCCATAC ATCTGAAAGA CGGGGTGTGC GCCCTGTATA ACGAACAAGA TGAGGAGGCG 120
 GCGGTGCTGG AAGTACCGCA ACACAGCGAC AGCCTGTTAC TACACTGCCG AATCATTGAG 180
 60 GCTGACCAC AACTTCAAT AACCTGTAT TCGATGCTAT TACAGCTGAA TTTTGAAATG 240

09879248-061201

GCGGCCATGC GCGGCTGTTG GCTGGCGCTG GATGAACTGC ACAACGTGCG TTTATGTTTT 300
 CAGCAGTCGC TGGAGCATCT GGATGAAGCA AGTTTTAGCG ATATCGTTAG CGGCTTCATC 360
 5 GAACATGCGG CAGAAGTGCG TGAGTATATA GCGCAATTAG ACGAGAGTAG CGCGGCATAA 420

This is known as the dspF gene. This isolated DNA molecule of the present invention encodes a hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 10 as follows:

Met Thr Ser Ser Gln Gln Arg Val Glu Arg Phe Leu Gln Tyr Phe Ser
 1 5 10 15
 15 Ala Gly Cys Lys Thr Pro Ile His Leu Lys Asp Gly Val Cys Ala Leu
 20 25 30
 Tyr Asn Glu Gln Asp Glu Glu Ala Val Leu Glu Val Pro Gln His
 35 40 45
 20 Ser Asp Ser Leu Leu Leu His Cys Arg Ile Ile Glu Ala Asp Pro Gln
 50 55 60
 Thr Ser Ile Thr Leu Tyr Ser Met Leu Leu Gln Leu Asn Phe Glu Met
 65 70 75 80
 25 Ala Ala Met Arg Gly Cys Trp Leu Ala Leu Asp Glu Leu His Asn Val
 85 90 95
 30 Arg Leu Cys Phe Gln Gln Ser Leu Glu His Leu Asp Glu Ala Ser Phe
 100 105 110
 Ser Asp Ile Val Ser Gly Phe Ile Glu His Ala Ala Glu Val Arg Glu
 115 120 125
 35 Tyr Ile Ala Gln Leu Asp Glu Ser Ser Ala Ala
 130 135

40 This protein or polypeptide is about 16 kDa and has a pI of 4.45.

The hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein derived from *Pseudomonas syringae* has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ. ID. No. 11 as follows:

Met Gln Ser Leu Ser Leu Asn Ser Ser Ser Leu Gln Thr Pro Ala Met
 1 5 10 15
 Ala Leu Val Leu Val Arg Pro Glu Ala Glu Thr Thr Gly Ser Thr Ser
 20 25 30
 50 Ser Lys Ala Leu Gln Glu Val Val Val Lys Leu Ala Glu Glu Leu Met
 35 40 45
 Arg Asn Gly Gln Leu Asp Asp Ser Ser Pro Leu Gly Lys Leu Leu Ala
 50 55 60

09879249-061201
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	Lys	Ser	Met	Ala	Ala	Asp	Gly	Lys	Ala	Gly	Gly	Gly	Ile	Glu	Asp	Val	
	65					70					75					80	
	Ile	Ala	Ala	Leu	Asp	Lys	Leu	Ile	His	Glu	Lys	Leu	Gly	Asp	Asn	Phe	
				85						90					95		
5	Gly	Ala	Ser	Ala	Asp	Ser	Ala	Ser	Gly	Thr	Gly	Gln	Gln	Asp	Leu	Met	
				100					105					110			
	Thr	Gln	Val	Leu	Asn	Gly	Leu	Ala	Lys	Ser	Met	Leu	Asp	Asp	Leu	Leu	
			115					120					125				
10	Thr	Lys	Gln	Asp	Gly	Gly	Thr	Ser	Phe	Ser	Glu	Asp	Asp	Met	Pro	Met	
	130						135					140					
	Leu	Asn	Lys	Ile	Ala	Gln	Phe	Met	Asp	Asp	Asn	Pro	Ala	Gln	Phe	Pro	
	145					150					155					160	
	Lys	Pro	Asp	Ser	Gly	Ser	Trp	Val	Asn	Glu	Leu	Lys	Glu	Asp	Asn	Phe	
					165					170					175		
15	Leu	Asp	Gly	Asp	Glu	Thr	Ala	Ala	Phe	Arg	Ser	Ala	Leu	Asp	Ile	Ile	
				180					185					190			
	Gly	Gln	Gln	Leu	Gly	Asn	Gln	Gln	Ser	Asp	Ala	Gly	Ser	Leu	Ala	Gly	
			195				200						205				
20	Thr	Gly	Gly	Gly	Leu	Gly	Thr	Pro	Ser	Ser	Phe	Ser	Asn	Asn	Ser	Ser	
	210						215					220					
	Val	Met	Gly	Asp	Pro	Leu	Ile	Asp	Ala	Asn	Thr	Gly	Pro	Gly	Asp	Ser	
	225					230					235					240	
	Gly	Asn	Thr	Arg	Gly	Glu	Ala	Gly	Gln	Leu	Ile	Gly	Glu	Leu	Ile	Asp	
					245					250					255		
25	Arg	Gly	Leu	Gln	Ser	Val	Leu	Ala	Gly	Gly	Gly	Leu	Gly	Thr	Pro	Val	
				260					265					270			
	Asn	Thr	Pro	Gln	Thr	Gly	Thr	Ser	Ala	Asn	Gly	Gly	Gln	Ser	Ala	Gln	
			275					280					285				
30	Asp	Leu	Asp	Gln	Leu	Leu	Gly	Gly	Leu	Leu	Leu	Lys	Gly	Leu	Glu	Ala	
	290						295					300					
	Thr	Leu	Lys	Asp	Ala	Gly	Gln	Thr	Gly	Thr	Asp	Val	Gln	Ser	Ser	Ala	
	305					310					315					320	
	Ala	Gln	Ile	Ala	Thr	Leu	Leu	Val	Ser	Thr	Leu	Leu	Gln	Gly	Thr	Arg	
					325					330					335		
35	Asn	Gln	Ala	Ala	Ala												
					340												

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This hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein has a molecular weight of 34-35 kDa. It is rich in glycine (about 13.5%) and lacks cysteine and tyrosine.

Further information about the hypersensitive response elicitor derived from

Pseudomonas syringae is found in He, S. Y., H. C. Huang, and A. Collmer,

- 5 “*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *syringae* Harpin_{PSS}: a Protein that is Secreted via the Hrp Pathway and Elicits the Hypersensitive Response in Plants,” Cell 73:1255-1266 (1993), which is hereby incorporated by reference. The DNA molecule encoding the hypersensitive response elicitor from *Pseudomonas syringae* has a nucleotide sequence corresponding to SEQ. ID. No. 12 as follows:

10 ATGCAGAGTC TCAGTCTTAA CAGCAGCTCG CTGCAAACCC CGGCAATGGC CCTTGTCTTG 60
GTACGTCTCTG AAGCCGAGAC GACTGGCAGT ACGTCGAGCA AGGCGCTTCA GGAAGTTGTC 120
GTGAAGCTGG CCGAGGAACT GATGCGCAAT GGTCAACTCG ACGACAGCTC GCCATTGGGA 180
AAACTGTTGG CCAAGTCGAT GGCCGCAGAT GGCAAGGCGG GCGGCGGTAT TGAGGATGTC 240
15 ATCGCTGCGC TGGACAAGCT GATCCATGAA AAGCTCGGTG ACAACTTCGG CGCGTCTGCG 300
GACAGCGCCT CGGGTACCGG ACAGCAGGAC CTGATGACTC AGGTGCTCAA TGGCCTGGCC 360
AAGTCGATGC TCGATGATCT TCTGACCAAG CAGGATGGCG GGACAAGCTT CTCCGAAGAC 420
GATATGCCGA TGCTGAACAA GATCGCGCAG TTCATGGATG ACAATCCCGC ACAGTTTCCC 480
AAGCCGGA CT CGGGCTCCTG GGTGAACGAA CTCAAGGAAG ACAACTTCCT TGATGGCGAC 540
20 GAAACGGCTG CGTTCGGTTC GGCACTCGAC ATCATTGGCC AGCAACTGGG TAATCAGCAG 600
AGTGACGCTG GCAGTCTGGC AGGGACGGGT GGAGGTCTGG GCACTCCGAG CAGTTTTTCC 660
AACAACTCGT CCGTGATGGG TGATCCGCTG ATCGACGCCA ATACCGGTCC CCGTGACAGC 720
GGCAATACCC GTGGTGAAGC GGGGCAACTG ATCGGCGAGC TTATCGACCG TGGCCTGCAA 780
TCGGTATTGG CCGGTGGTGG ACTGGGCACA CCCGTAAACA CCCCAGAC CCGTACGTCG 840
25 GCGAATGGCG GACAGTCCGC TCAGGATCTT GATCAGTTGC TGGGCGGCTT GCTGCTCAAG 900
GGCCTGGAGG CAACGCTCAA GGATGCCGGG CAAACAGGCA CCGACGTGCA GTCGAGCGCT 960
GCGCAAATCG CCACCTTGCT GGTCAGTACG CTGCTGCAAG GCACCCGCAA TCAGGCTGCA 1020
GCCTGA 1026

- 30 Another potentially suitable hypersensitive response elicitor from *Pseudomonas syringae* is disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/120,817,

which is hereby incorporated by reference. The protein has a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 13 as follows:

5	TCCACTTCGC TGATTTTGAA ATTGGCAGAT TCATAGAAAC GTTCAGGTGT GGAAATCAGG	60
	CTGAGTGCGC AGATTTTCGTT GATAAGGGTG TGGTACTGGT CATTGTTGGT CATTTC AAGG	120
	CCTCTGAGTG CGGTGCGGAG CAATACCAGT CTTCTCTGCTG GCGTGTGCAC ACTGAGTCGC	180
10	AGGCATAGGC ATTTTCAGTTC CTTGCGTTGG TTGGGCATAT AAAAAAAGGA ACTTTTAAAA	240
	ACAGTGCAAT GAGATGCCGG CAAAACGGGA ACCGGTCGCT GCGCTTTGCC ACTCACTTCG	300
	AGCAAGCTCA ACCCCAAACA TCCACATCCC TATCGAACGG ACAGCGATAC GGCCACTTGC	360
15	TCTGGTAAAC CCTGGAGCTG GCGTCGGTCC AATTGCCCCAC TTAGCGAGGT AACGCAGCAT	420
	GAGCATCGGC ATCACACCCC GGCCGCAACA GACCACCACG CCACTCGATT TTTCGGCGCT	480
20	AAGCGGCAAG AGTCCTCAAC CAAACACGTT CGGCGAGCAG AACACTCAGC AAGCGATCGA	540
	CCCGAGTGCA CTGTTGTTTCG GCAGCGACAC ACAGAAAGAC GTCAACTTCG GCACGCCCGA	600
	CAGCACCGTC CAGAATCCGC AGGACGCCAG CAAGCCCAAC GACAGCCAGT CCAACATCGC	660
25	TAAATTGATC AGTGCATTGA TCATGTCGTT GCTGCAGATG CTCACCAACT CCAATAAAAA	720
	GCAGGACACC AATCAGGAAC AGCCTGATAG CCAGGCTCCT TTCCAGAACA ACGGCGGGCT	780
30	CGGTACACCG TCGGCCGATA GCGGGGCGG CGGTACACCG GATGCGACAG GTGGCGGCGG	840
	CGGTGATACG CCAAGCGCAA CAGGCGGTGG CGGCGGTGAT ACTCQGACCG CAACAGGCGG	900
	TGGCGGCAGC GGTGGCGGCG GCACACCCAC TGCAACAGGT GGCGGCAGCG GTGGCACACC	960
35	CACTGCAACA GGCGGTGGCG AGGGTGGCGT AACACCGCAA ATCACTCCGC AGTTGGCCAA	1020
	CCCTAACCGT ACCTCAGGTA CTGGCTCGGT GTCGGACACC GCAGGTTCTA CCGAGCAAGC	1080
40	CGGCAAGATC AATGTGGTGA AAGACACCAT CAAGGTCGGC GCTGGCGAAG TCTTTGACGG	1140
	CCACGGCGCA ACCTTCACTG CCGACAAATC TATGGGTAAC GGAGACCAGG GCGAAAATCA	1200
	GAAGCCCATG TTCGAGCTGG CTGAAGGCGC TACGTTGAAG AATGTGAACC TGGGTGAGAA	1260
45	CGAGGTCGAT GGCATCCACG TGAAAGCCAA AAACGCTCAG GAAGTCACCA TTGACAACGT	1320
	GCATGCCCAG AACGTCGGTG AAGACCTGAT TACGGTCAAA GGCGAGGGAG GCGCAGCGGT	1380
50	CACTAATCTG AACATCAAGA ACAGCAGTGC CAAAGGTGCA GACGACAAGG TTGTCCAGCT	1440
	CAACGCCAAC ACTCACTTGA AAATCGACAA CTTCAAGGCC GACGATTTTCG GCACGATGGT	1500
	TCGCACCAAC GGTGGCAAGC AGTTTGATGA CATGAGCATC GAGCTGAACG GCATCGAAGC	1560
55	TAACCACGGC AAGTTCGCCC TGGTGAAAAG CGACAGTGAC GATCTGAAGC TGGCAACGGG	1620
	CAACATCGCC ATGACCGACG TCAAACACGC CTACGATAAA ACCCAGGCAT CGACCCAACA	1680
60	CACCGAGCTT TGAATCCAGA CAAGTAGCTT GAAAAAAGGG GGTGGACTC	1729

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This DNA molecule is known as the dspE gene for *Pseudomonas syringae*. This isolated DNA molecule of the present invention encodes a protein or polypeptide which elicits a plant pathogen's hypersensitive response having an amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 14 as follows:

5 Met Ser Ile Gly Ile Thr Pro Arg Pro Gln Gln Thr Thr Thr Pro Leu
1 5 10 15
10 Asp Phe Ser Ala Leu Ser Gly Lys Ser Pro Gln Pro Asn Thr Phe Gly
20 25 30
Glu Gln Asn Thr Gln Gln Ala Ile Asp Pro Ser Ala Leu Leu Phe Gly
35 40 45
15 Ser Asp Thr Gln Lys Asp Val Asn Phe Gly Thr Pro Asp Ser Thr Val
50 55 60
Gln Asn Pro Gln Asp Ala Ser Lys Pro Asn Asp Ser Gln Ser Asn Ile
65 70 75 80
20 Ala Lys Leu Ile Ser Ala Leu Ile Met Ser Leu Leu Gln Met Leu Thr
85 90 95
Asn Ser Asn Lys Lys Gln Asp Thr Asn Gln Glu Gln Pro Asp Ser Gln
100 105 110
25 Ala Pro Phe Gln Asn Asn Gly Gly Leu Gly Thr Pro Ser Ala Asp Ser
115 120 125
30 Gly Gly Gly Gly Thr Pro Asp Ala Thr Gly Gly Gly Gly Gly Asp Thr
130 135 140
Pro Ser Ala Thr Gly Gly Gly Gly Gly Asp Thr Pro Thr Ala Thr Gly
145 150 155 160
35 Gly Gly Gly Ser Gly Gly Gly Gly Thr Pro Thr Ala Thr Gly Gly Gly
165 170 175
Ser Gly Gly Thr Pro Thr Ala Thr Gly Gly Gly Glu Gly Gly Val Thr
180 185 190
Pro Gln Ile Thr Pro Gln Leu Ala Asn Pro Asn Arg Thr Ser Gly Thr
195 200 205
45 Gly Ser Val Ser Asp Thr Ala Gly Ser Thr Glu Gln Ala Gly Lys Ile
210 215 220
Asn Val Val Lys Asp Thr Ile Lys Val Gly Ala Gly Glu Val Phe Asp
225 230 235 240
50 Gly His Gly Ala Thr Phe Thr Ala Asp Lys Ser Met Gly Asn Gly Asp
245 250 255
Gln Gly Glu Asn Gln Lys Pro Met Phe Glu Leu Ala Glu Gly Ala Thr
260 265 270
55

09879248-061201
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Leu Lys Asn Val Asn Leu Gly Glu Asn Glu Val Asp Gly Ile His Val
275 280 285

5 Lys Ala Lys Asn Ala Gln Glu Val Thr Ile Asp Asn Val His Ala Gln
290 295 300

Asn Val Gly Glu Asp Leu Ile Thr Val Lys Gly Glu Gly Gly Ala Ala
305 310 315 320

10 Val Thr Asn Leu Asn Ile Lys Asn Ser Ser Ala Lys Gly Ala Asp Asp
325 330 335

Lys Val Val Gln Leu Asn Ala Asn Thr His Leu Lys Ile Asp Asn Phe
340 345 350

15 Lys Ala Asp Asp Phe Gly Thr Met Val Arg Thr Asn Gly Gly Lys Gln
355 360 365

20 Phe Asp Asp Met Ser Ile Glu Leu Asn Gly Ile Glu Ala Asn His Gly
370 375 380

Lys Phe Ala Leu Val Lys Ser Asp Ser Asp Asp Leu Lys Leu Ala Thr
385 390 395 400

25 Gly Asn Ile Ala Met Thr Asp Val Lys His Ala Tyr Asp Lys Thr Gln
405 410 415

30 Ala Ser Thr Gln His Thr Glu Leu
420

This protein or polypeptide is about 42.9 kDa.

This hypersensitive response elicitor from *Pseudomonas syringae* has 1
35 hypersensitive response eliciting domain. This domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No.
14, from amino acid 45 to amino acid 102, particularly from amino acid 58 to amino
acid 92. The acidic unit in the first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 14, from
amino acid 45 to amino acid 79, particularly from amino acid 58 to amino acid 79.
The alpha-helix in the first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 14, from amino acid
40 79 to amino acid 102, particularly from amino acid 79 to amino acid 92.

The hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein derived
from *Pseudomonas solanacearum* has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ.
ID. No. 15 as follows:

45 Met Ser Val Gly Asn Ile Gln Ser Pro Ser Asn Leu Pro Gly Leu Gln
1 5 10 15

Asn Leu Asn Leu Asn Thr Asn Thr Asn Ser Gln Gln Ser Gly Gln Ser
20 25 30

	Val	Gln	Asp	Leu	Ile	Lys	Gln	Val	Glu	Lys	Asp	Ile	Leu	Asn	Ile	Ile	
			35					40					45				
	Ala	Ala	Leu	Val	Gln	Lys	Ala	Ala	Gln	Ser	Ala	Gly	Gly	Asn	Thr	Gly	
		50					55					60					
5	Asn	Thr	Gly	Asn	Ala	Pro	Ala	Lys	Asp	Gly	Asn	Ala	Asn	Ala	Gly	Ala	
	65					70					75					80	
	Asn	Asp	Pro	Ser	Lys	Asn	Asp	Pro	Ser	Lys	Ser	Gln	Ala	Pro	Gln	Ser	
					85					90					95		
10	Ala	Asn	Lys	Thr	Gly	Asn	Val	Asp	Asp	Ala	Asn	Asn	Gln	Asp	Pro	Met	
				100					105					110			
	Gln	Ala	Leu	Met	Gln	Leu	Leu	Glu	Asp	Leu	Val	Lys	Leu	Leu	Lys	Ala	
			115					120					125				
	Ala	Leu	His	Met	Gln	Gln	Pro	Gly	Gly	Asn	Asp	Lys	Gly	Asn	Gly	Val	
		130					135					140					
15	Gly	Gly	Ala	Asn	Gly	Ala	Lys	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	Gln	Gly	Gly	Leu	Ala	
	145					150					155					160	
	Glu	Ala	Leu	Gln	Glu	Ile	Glu	Gln	Ile	Leu	Ala	Gln	Leu	Gly	Gly	Gly	
					165					170					175		
20	Gly	Ala	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	Gly	Val	Gly	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	
				180					185					190			
	Ala	Asp	Gly	Gly	Ser	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	Ala	Asn	Gly	Ala	
			195					200					205				
	Asp	Gly	Gly	Asn	Gly	Val	Asn	Gly	Asn	Gln	Ala	Asn	Gly	Pro	Gln	Asn	
		210					215					220					
25	Ala	Gly	Asp	Val	Asn	Gly	Ala	Asn	Gly	Ala	Asp	Asp	Gly	Ser	Glu	Asp	
	225				230						235					240	
	Gln	Gly	Gly	Leu	Thr	Gly	Val	Leu	Gln	Lys	Leu	Met	Lys	Ile	Leu	Asn	
					245					250					255		
30	Ala	Leu	Val	Gln	Met	Met	Gln	Gln	Gly	Gly	Leu	Gly	Gly	Gly	Asn	Gln	
				260					265					270			
	Ala	Gln	Gly	Gly	Ser	Lys	Gly	Ala	Gly	Asn	Ala	Ser	Pro	Ala	Ser	Gly	
			275					280					285				
	Ala	Asn	Pro	Gly	Ala	Asn	Gln	Pro	Gly	Ser	Ala	Asp	Asp	Gln	Ser	Ser	
		290					295					300					
35	Gly	Gln	Asn	Asn	Leu	Gln	Ser	Gln	Ile	Met	Asp	Val	Val	Lys	Glu	Val	
	305					310					315					320	
	Val	Gln	Ile	Leu	Gln	Gln	Met	Leu	Ala	Ala	Gln	Asn	Gly	Gly	Ser	Gln	
					325					330					335		

09879248-061201

Gln Ser Thr Ser Thr Gln Pro Met
340

It is encoded by a DNA molecule having a nucleotide sequence corresponding SEQ. ID. No. 16 as follows:

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5  ATGTCAGTCG GAAACATCCA GAGCCCGTCG AACCTCCCGG GTCTGCAGAA CCTGAACCTC      60
   AACACCAACA CCAACAGCCA GCAATCGGGC CAGTCCGTGC AAGACCTGAT CAAGCAGGTC      120
   GAGAAGGACA TCCTCAACAT CATCGCAGCC CTCGTGCAGA AGGCCGCACA GTCGGCGGGC      180
   GGCAACACCG GTAACACCGG CAACGCGCCG GCGAAGGACG GCAATGCCAA CGCGGGCGCC      240
   AACGACCCGA GCAAGAACGA CCCGAGCAAG AGCCAGGCTC CGCAGTCGGC CAACAAGACC      300
10 GGCAACGTCG ACGACGCCAA CAACCAGGAT CCGATGCAAG CGCTGATGCA GCTGCTGGAA      360
   GACCTGGTGA AGCTGCTGAA GGCGGCCCTG CACATGCAGC AGCCCGGCGG CAATGACAAG      420
   GGCAACGGCG TGGGCGGTGC CAACGGCGCC AAGGGTGCCG GCGGCCAGGG CGGCCTGGCC      480
   GAAGCGCTGC AGGAGATCGA GCAGATCCTC GCCCAGCTCG GCGGCGGCGG TGCTGGCGCC      540
   GGCGGCGCGG GTGGCGGTGT CGGCGGTGCT GGTGGCGCGG ATGGCGGCTC CGGTGCGGGT      600
15 GGCGCAGGCG GTGCGAACGG CGCCGACGGC GGCAATGGCG TGAACGGCAA CCAGGCGAAC      660
   GGCCCGCAGA ACGCAGGCGA TGTCAACGGT GCCAACGGCG CGGATGACGG CAGCGAAGAC      720
   CAGGGCGGCC TCACCGGCGT GCTGCAAAAG CTGATGAAGA TCCTGAACGC GCTGGTGCAG      780
   ATGATGCAGC AAGGCGGCCT CGGCGGCGGC AACCAGGCGC AGGGCGGCTC GAAGGGTGCC      840
   GGCAACGCCT CGCCGGCTTC CGGCGCGAAC CCGGGCGCGA ACCAGCCCGG TTCGGCGGAT      900
20 GATCAATCGT CCGGCCAGAA CAATCTGCAA TCCCAGATCA TGGATGTGGT GAAGGAGGTC      960
   GTCCAGATCC TGCAGCAGAT GCTGGCGGCG CAGAACGGCG GCAGCCAGCA GTCCACCTCG     1020
   ACGCAGCCGA TGTAAT                                     1035

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25 Further information regarding the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein derived from *Pseudomonas solanacearum* is set forth in Arlat, M., F. Van Gijsegem, J. C. Huet, J. C. Pemollet, and C. A. Boucher, "PopA1, a Protein which Induces a Hypersensitive-like Response in Specific Petunia Genotypes, is Secreted via the Hrp Pathway of *Pseudomonas solanacearum*," EMBO J. 13:543-533 (1994),

30 which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The hypersensitive response elicitor from *Pseudomonas solanacearum* has 2 hypersensitive response eliciting domains. The first domain extends, within SEQ. ID.

0679248-061201

No. 15, from amino acid 85 to amino acid 131, particularly from amino acid 95 to amino acid 123. The acidic unit in the first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 15, from amino acid 85 to amino acid 111, particularly from amino acid 95 to amino acid 123. The alpha-helix in the first domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 15, from amino acid 85 to amino acid 111, particularly from amino acid 95 to amino acid 111. The second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 15, from amino acid 195 to amino acid 264, particularly from amino acid 229 to amino acid 258. The acidic unit in the second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 15, from amino acid 195 to amino acid 246, particularly from amino acid 229 to amino acid 264. The alpha-helix in the second domain extends, within SEQ. ID. No. 15, from amino acid 246 to amino acid 264, particularly from amino acid 246 to amino acid 258.

The N-terminus of the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein from *Xanthomonas campestris* has an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ. ID. No. 17 as follows:

Met Asp Gly Ile Gly Asn His Phe Ser Asn
1 5 10

The hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein from *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *pelargonii* is heat stable, protease sensitive, and has a molecular weight of 20 kDa. It includes an amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ. ID. No. 18 as follows:

Ser Ser Gln Gln Ser Pro Ser Ala Gly Ser Glu Gln Gln Leu Asp Gln
1 5 10 15
Leu Leu Ala Met
20

Isolation of *Erwinia carotovora* hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide is described in Cui et al., "The RsmA Mutants of *Erwinia carotovora* subsp. *carotovora* Strain Ecc71 Overexpress *hrp* N_{Ecc} and Elicit a Hypersensitive Reaction-like Response in Tobacco Leaves," MPMI, 9(7):565-73 (1996), which is hereby incorporated by reference. The hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide of *Erwinia stewartii* is set forth in Ahmad et al., "Harpin is Not

Necessary for the Pathogenicity of *Erwinia stewartii* on Maize,” 8th Int’l. Cong. Molec. Plant-Microbe Interact., July 14-19, 1996 and Ahmad, et al., “Harpin is Not Necessary for the Pathogenicity of *Erwinia stewartii* on Maize,” Ann. Mtg. Am. Phytopath. Soc., July 27-31, 1996, which are hereby incorporated by reference.

5 Hypersensitive response elicitor proteins or polypeptides from *Phytophthora parasitica*, *Phytophthora cryptogea*, *Phytophthora cinnamoni*, *Phytophthora capsici*, *Phytophthora megasperma*, and *Phytophthora citrophthora* are described in Kaman, et al., “Extracellular Protein Elicitors from Phytophthora: Most Specificity and Induction of Resistance to Bacterial and Fungal Phytopathogens,”
10 Molec. Plant-Microbe Interact., 6(1):15-25 (1993), Ricci et al., “Structure and Activity of Proteins from Pathogenic Fungi Phytophthora Eliciting Necrosis and Acquired Resistance in Tobacco,” Eur. J. Biochem., 183:555-63 (1989), Ricci et al., “Differential Production of Parasiticein, and Elicitor of Necrosis and Resistance in Tobacco, by Isolates of *Phytophthora parasitica*,” Plant Path. 41:298-307 (1992),
15 Baillreul et al, “A New Elicitor of the Hypersensitive Response in Tobacco: A Fungal Glycoprotein Elicits Cell Death, Expression of Defence Genes, Production of Salicylic Acid, and Induction of Systemic Acquired Resistance,” Plant J., 8(4):551-60 (1995), and Bonnet et al., “Acquired Resistance Triggered by Elicitors in Tobacco and Other Plants,” Eur. J. Plant Path., 102:181-92 (1996), which are hereby
20 incorporated by reference.

 Another hypersensitive response elicitor in accordance with the present invention is from *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *sepedonicus* which is fully described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/136,625, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

25 The above elicitors are exemplary. Other elicitors can be identified by growing fungi or bacteria that elicit a hypersensitive response under conditions which genes encoding an elicitor are expressed. Cell-free preparations from culture supernatants can be tested for elicitor activity (i.e. local necrosis) by using them to infiltrate appropriate plant tissues.

30 Fragments of the above hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptides or proteins as well as fragments of full length elicitors from other pathogens are encompassed by the method of the present invention.

09879248-061201
FOI 90-8426480

Suitable fragments can be produced by several means. In the first, subclones of the gene encoding a known elicitor protein are produced by conventional molecular genetic manipulation by subcloning gene fragments. The subclones then are expressed *in vitro* or *in vivo* in bacterial cells to yield a smaller protein or peptide
5 that can be tested for elicitor activity according to the procedure described below.

As an alternative, fragments of an elicitor protein can be produced by digestion of a full-length elicitor protein with proteolytic enzymes like chymotrypsin or *Staphylococcus* proteinase A, or trypsin. Different proteolytic enzymes are likely to cleave elicitor proteins at different sites based on the amino acid sequence of the
10 elicitor protein. Some of the fragments that result from proteolysis may be active elicitors of resistance.

In another approach, based on knowledge of the primary structure of the protein, fragments of the elicitor protein gene may be synthesized by using the PCR technique together with specific sets of primers chosen to represent particular
15 portions of the protein. These then would be cloned into an appropriate vector for expression of a truncated peptide or protein.

Chemical synthesis can also be used to make suitable fragments. Such a synthesis is carried out using known amino acid sequences for the elicitor being produced. Alternatively, subjecting a full length elicitor to high temperatures and
20 pressures will produce fragments. These fragments can then be separated by conventional procedures (e.g., chromatography, SDS-PAGE).

An example of suitable fragments of a hypersensitive response elicitor which do elicit a hypersensitive response are *Erwinia amylovora* fragments including a C-terminal fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 3, an N-terminal
25 fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 3, or an internal fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 3. The C-terminal fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 3 can span amino acids 105 and 403 of SEQ. ID. No. 3. The N-terminal fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 3 can span the following amino acids of SEQ. ID. No. 3: 1 and 98, 1 and 104, 1 and 122, 1 and 168,
30 1 and 218, 1 and 266, 1 and 342, 1 and 321, and 1 and 372. The internal fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID. No. 3 can span the following amino acids of

09879248-061201
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SEQ. ID. No. 3: 76 and 209, 105 and 209, 99 and 209, 137 and 204, 137 and 200, 109 and 204, 109 and 200, 137 and 180, and 105 and 180.

Suitable DNA molecules are those that hybridize to the DNA molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence of SEQ. ID. Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, and 16 under stringent conditions. An example of suitable high stringency conditions is when hybridization is carried out at 65°C for 20 hours in a medium containing 1M NaCl, 50 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, 10 mM EDTA, 0.1% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 0.2% ficoll, 0.2% polyvinylpyrrolidone, 0.2% bovine serum albumin, 50 µm g/ml *E. coli* DNA. Suitable stringency conditions also include hybridization in a hybridization buffer comprising 0.9M sodium citrate ("SSC") buffer at a temperature of 37°C where hybridized nucleic acids remain bound when subject to washing the SSC buffer at a temperature of 37°C; and preferably in a hybridization buffer comprising 20% formamide in 0.9M SSC buffer at a temperature of 42°C where hybridized nucleic acids remain bound when subject to washing at 42°C with 0.2x SSC buffer at 42°C.

Variants may be made by, for example, the deletion or addition of amino acids that have minimal influence on the properties, secondary structure and hydropathic nature of the polypeptide. For example, a polypeptide may be conjugated to a signal (or leader) sequence at the N-terminal end of the protein which co-translationally or post-translationally directs transfer of the protein. The polypeptide may also be conjugated to a linker or other sequence for ease of synthesis, purification, or identification of the polypeptide.

A particularly advantageous aspect of the present invention involves utilizing a protein having a pair or more, particularly 3 or more, coupled domains. These domains can be from different source organisms. When a DNA molecule encoding such a protein is prepared, it can be advantageously used to make transgenic plants. The use of a gene encoding such domains, as opposed to a gene encoding a full length hypersensitive response elicitor, has a number of benefits. Firstly, such a gene is easier to synthesize. More significantly, the use of a plurality of domains together from different source organisms can impart their combined benefits to a transgenic plant.

The DNA molecule encoding the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be incorporated in cells using conventional recombinant

09879248-061201
FOI 90-84262860

DNA technology. Generally, this involves inserting the DNA molecule into an expression system to which the DNA molecule is heterologous (i.e. not normally present). The heterologous DNA molecule is inserted into the expression system or vector in proper sense orientation and correct reading frame. The vector contains the necessary elements for the transcription and translation of the inserted protein-coding sequences.

U.S. Patent No. 4,237,224 to Cohen and Boyer, which is hereby incorporated by reference, describes the production of expression systems in the form of recombinant plasmids using restriction enzyme cleavage and ligation with DNA ligase. These recombinant plasmids are then introduced by means of transformation and replicated in unicellular cultures including procaryotic organisms and eucaryotic cells grown in tissue culture.

Recombinant genes may also be introduced into viruses, such as vaccina virus. Recombinant viruses can be generated by transfection of plasmids into cells infected with virus.

Suitable vectors include, but are not limited to, the following viral vectors such as lambda vector system gt11, gt WES.tB, Charon 4, and plasmid vectors such as pBR322, pBR325, pACYC177, pACYC1084, pUC8, pUC9, pUC18, pUC19, pLG339, pR290, pKC37, pKC101, SV 40, pBluescript II SK +/- or KS +/- (see "Stratagene Cloning Systems" Catalog (1993) from Stratagene, La Jolla, Calif, which is hereby incorporated by reference), pQE, pIH821, pGEX, pET series (see F.W. Studier et. al., "Use of T7 RNA Polymerase to Direct Expression of Cloned Genes," Gene Expression Technology vol. 185 (1990), which is hereby incorporated by reference), and any derivatives thereof. Recombinant molecules can be introduced into cells via transformation, particularly transduction, conjugation, mobilization, or electroporation. The DNA sequences are cloned into the vector using standard cloning procedures in the art, as described by Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Springs Laboratory, Cold Springs Harbor, New York (1989), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

A variety of host-vector systems may be utilized to express the protein-encoding sequence(s). Primarily, the vector system must be compatible with the host cell used. Host-vector systems include but are not limited to the following: bacteria

09879248 061201
FOI 92-061201

transformed with bacteriophage DNA, plasmid DNA, or cosmid DNA; microorganisms such as yeast containing yeast vectors; mammalian cell systems infected with virus (e.g., vaccinia virus, adenovirus, etc.); insect cell systems infected with virus (e.g., baculovirus); and plant cells infected by bacteria. The expression elements of these vectors vary in their strength and specificities. Depending upon the host-vector system utilized, any one of a number of suitable transcription and translation elements can be used.

Different genetic signals and processing events control many levels of gene expression (e.g., DNA transcription and messenger RNA (mRNA) translation).

Transcription of DNA is dependent upon the presence of a promotor which is a DNA sequence that directs the binding of RNA polymerase and thereby promotes mRNA synthesis. The DNA sequences of eucaryotic promotors differ from those of procaryotic promotors. Furthermore, eucaryotic promotors and accompanying genetic signals may not be recognized in or may not function in a procaryotic system, and, further, procaryotic promotors are not recognized and do not function in eucaryotic cells.

Similarly, translation of mRNA in procaryotes depends upon the presence of the proper procaryotic signals which differ from those of eucaryotes. Efficient translation of mRNA in procaryotes requires a ribosome binding site called the Shine-Dalgarno ("SD") sequence on the mRNA. This sequence is a short nucleotide sequence of mRNA that is located before the start codon, usually AUG, which encodes the amino-terminal methionine of the protein. The SD sequences are complementary to the 3'-end of the 16S rRNA (ribosomal RNA) and probably promote binding of mRNA to ribosomes by duplexing with the rRNA to allow correct positioning of the ribosome. For a review on maximizing gene expression, see Roberts and Lauer, Methods in Enzymology, 68:473 (1979), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Promotors vary in their "strength" (i.e. their ability to promote transcription). For the purposes of expressing a cloned gene, it is desirable to use strong promotors in order to obtain a high level of transcription and, hence, expression of the gene. Depending upon the host cell system utilized, any one of a number of suitable promotors may be used. For instance, when cloning in *E. coli*, its

05879248-061201
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bacteriophages, or plasmids, promoters such as the T7 phage promoter, *lac* promoter, *trp* promoter, *recA* promoter, ribosomal RNA promoter, the P_R and P_L promoters of coliphage lambda and others, including but not limited, to *lacUV5*, *ompF*, *bla*, *lpp*, and the like, may be used to direct high levels of transcription of adjacent DNA segments. Additionally, a hybrid *trp-lacUV5 (tac)* promoter or other *E. coli* promoters produced by recombinant DNA or other synthetic DNA techniques may be used to provide for transcription of the inserted gene.

Bacterial host cell strains and expression vectors may be chosen which inhibit the action of the promoter unless specifically induced. In certain operations, the addition of specific inducers is necessary for efficient transcription of the inserted DNA. For example, the *lac* operon is induced by the addition of lactose or IPTG (isopropylthio-beta-D-galactoside). A variety of other operons, such as *trp*, *pro*, etc., are under different controls.

Specific initiation signals are also required for efficient gene transcription and translation in procaryotic cells. These transcription and translation initiation signals may vary in "strength" as measured by the quantity of gene specific messenger RNA and protein synthesized, respectively. The DNA expression vector, which contains a promoter, may also contain any combination of various "strong" transcription and/or translation initiation signals. For instance, efficient translation in *E. coli* requires an SD sequence about 7-9 bases 5' to the initiation codon ("ATG") to provide a ribosome binding site. Thus, any SD-ATG combination that can be utilized by host cell ribosomes may be employed. Such combinations include but are not limited to the SD-ATG combination from the *cro* gene or the *N* gene of coliphage lambda, or from the *E. coli* tryptophan E, D, C, B or A genes. Additionally, any SD-ATG combination produced by recombinant DNA or other techniques involving incorporation of synthetic nucleotides may be used.

Once the isolated DNA molecule encoding the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein has been cloned into an expression system, it is ready to be incorporated into a host cell. Such incorporation can be carried out by the various forms of transformation noted above, depending upon the vector/host cell system. Suitable host cells include, but are not limited to, plant cells as well as

09879248-061201
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prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, such as bacteria, virus, yeast, mammalian, insect cells, and the like.

The present invention further relates to methods of imparting disease resistance to plants, enhancing plant growth, effecting insect control and/or imparting stress resistance to plants. These methods involve applying a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein to all or part of a plant or a plant seed under conditions where the polypeptide or protein contacts all or part of the cells of the plant or plant seed. Alternatively, the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide can be applied to plants such that seeds recovered from such plants themselves are able to impart disease resistance in plants, to enhance plant growth, to effect insect control, and/or to impart stress resistance.

As an alternative to applying a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein to plants or plant seeds in order to impart disease resistance in plants, to effect plant growth, to control insects, and/or to impart stress resistance to the plants or plants grown from the seeds, transgenic plants or plant seeds can be utilized. When utilizing transgenic plants, this involves providing a transgenic plant transformed with a DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein and growing the plant under conditions effective to permit that DNA molecule to impart disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, to control insects, and/or to impart stress resistance. Alternatively, a transgenic plant seed transformed with a DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be provided and planted in soil. A plant is then propagated from the planted seed under conditions effective to permit that DNA molecule to impart disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, to control insects, and/or to impart stress resistance.

The method of the present invention can be utilized to treat a wide variety of plants or their seeds to impart disease resistance, enhance growth, control insects, and/or to impart stress resistance. Suitable plants include dicots and monocots. More particularly, useful crop plants can include: alfalfa, rice, wheat, barley, rye, cotton, sunflower, peanut, corn, potato, sweet potato, bean, pea, chicory, lettuce, endive, cabbage, brussel sprout, beet, parsnip, turnip, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, radish, spinach, onion, garlic, eggplant, pepper, celery, carrot, squash,

09879248-0612001

pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, apple, pear, melon, citrus, strawberry, grape, raspberry, pineapple, soybean, tobacco, tomato, sorghum, and sugarcane. Examples of suitable ornamental plants are: *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Saintpaulia*, petunia, pelargonium, poinsettia, chrysanthemum, carnation, and zinnia.

5 With regard to the use of the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide of the present invention in imparting disease resistance, absolute immunity against infection may not be conferred, but the severity of the disease is reduced and symptom development is delayed. Lesion number, lesion size, and extent of sporulation of fungal pathogens are all decreased. This method of imparting
10 disease resistance has the potential for treating previously untreatable diseases, treating diseases systemically which might not be treated separately due to cost, and avoiding the use of infectious agents or environmentally harmful materials.

 The method of imparting pathogen resistance to plants in accordance with the present invention is useful in imparting resistance to a wide variety of
15 pathogens including viruses, bacteria, and fungi. Resistance, *inter alia*, to the following viruses can be achieved by the method of the present invention: *Tobacco mosaic virus* and *Tomato mosaic virus*. Resistance, *inter alia*, to the following bacteria can also be imparted to plants in accordance with present invention: *Pseudomonas solancearum*, *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tabaci*, and *Xanthamonas*
20 *campestris* pv. *pelargonii*. Plants can be made resistant, *inter alia*, to the following fungi by use of the method of the present invention: *Fusarium oxysporum* and *Phytophthora infestans*.

 With regard to the use of the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide of the present invention to enhance plant growth, various forms of plant
25 growth enhancement or promotion can be achieved. This can occur as early as when plant growth begins from seeds or later in the life of a plant. For example, plant growth according to the present invention encompasses greater yield, increased quantity of seeds produced, increased percentage of seeds germinated, increased plant size, greater biomass, more and bigger fruit, earlier fruit coloration, and earlier fruit
30 and plant maturation. As a result, the present invention provides significant economic benefit to growers. For example, early germination and early maturation permit crops to be grown in areas where short growing seasons would otherwise preclude their

growth in that locale. Increased percentage of seed germination results in improved crop stands and more efficient seed use. Greater yield, increased size, and enhanced biomass production allow greater revenue generation from a given plot of land.

Another aspect of the present invention is directed to effecting any
5 form of insect control for plants. For example, insect control according to the present invention encompasses preventing insects from contacting plants to which the hypersensitive response elicitor has been applied, preventing direct insect damage to plants by feeding injury, causing insects to depart from such plants, killing insects proximate to such plants, interfering with insect larval feeding on such plants,
10 preventing insects from colonizing host plants, preventing colonizing insects from releasing phytotoxins, etc. The present invention also prevents subsequent disease damage to plants resulting from insect infection.

The present invention is effective against a wide variety of insects. European corn borer is a major pest of corn (dent and sweet corn) but also feeds on
15 over 200 plant species including green, wax, and lima beans and edible soybeans, peppers, potato, and tomato plus many weed species. Additional insect larval feeding pests which damage a wide variety of vegetable crops include the following: beet armyworm, cabbage looper, corn ear worm, fall armyworm, diamondback moth, cabbage root maggot, onion maggot, seed corn maggot, pickleworm (melonworm),
20 pepper maggot, and tomato pinworm. Collectively, this group of insect pests represents the most economically important group of pests for vegetable production worldwide.

Another aspect of the present invention is directed to imparting stress resistance to plants. Stress encompasses any environmental factor having an adverse
25 effect on plant physiology and development. Examples of such environmental stress include climate-related stress (e.g., drought, water, frost, cold temperature, high temperature, excessive light, and insufficient light), air pollution stress (e.g., carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, NO_x, hydrocarbons, ozone, ultraviolet radiation, acidic rain), chemical (e.g., insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, heavy
30 metals), and nutritional stress (e.g., fertilizer, micronutrients, macronutrients). Use of hypersensitive response elicitors in accordance with the present invention impart resistance to plants against such forms of environmental stress.

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The method of the present invention involving application of the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be carried out through a variety of procedures when all or part of the plant is treated, including leaves, stems, roots, propagules (e.g., cuttings), etc. This may (but need not) involve infiltration of the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein into the plant. Suitable application methods include high or low pressure spraying, injection, and leaf abrasion proximate to when elicitor application takes place. When treating plant seeds, in accordance with the application embodiment of the present invention, the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide can be applied by low or high pressure spraying, coating, immersion, or injection. Other suitable application procedures can be envisioned by those skilled in the art provided they are able to effect contact of the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein with cells of the plant or plant seed. Once treated with the hypersensitive response elicitor of the present invention, the seeds can be planted in natural or artificial soil and cultivated using conventional procedures to produce plants. After plants have been propagated from seeds treated in accordance with the present invention, the plants may be treated with one or more applications of the hypersensitive response elicitor protein or polypeptide to impart disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, to control insects on the plants, and/or impart stress resistance.

The hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be applied to plants or plant seeds in accordance with the present invention alone or in a mixture with other materials. Alternatively, the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be applied separately to plants with other materials being applied at different times.

A composition suitable for treating plants or plant seeds in accordance with the application embodiment of the present invention contains a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein in a carrier. Suitable carriers include water, aqueous solutions, slurries, or dry powders. In this embodiment, the composition contains greater than 500 nM hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein.

Although not required, this composition may contain additional additives including fertilizer, insecticide, fungicide, nematocide, and mixtures thereof.

Suitable fertilizers include $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{NO}_3$. An example of a suitable insecticide is Malathion. Useful fungicides include Captan.

Other suitable additives include buffering agents, wetting agents, coating agents, and abrading agents. These materials can be used to facilitate the process of the present invention. In addition, the hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein can be applied to plant seeds with other conventional seed formulation and treatment materials, including clays and polysaccharides.

In the alternative embodiment of the present invention involving the use of transgenic plants and transgenic seeds, a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein need not be applied topically to the plants or seeds. Instead, transgenic plants transformed with a DNA molecule encoding a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein are produced according to procedures well known in the art.

The vector described above can be microinjected directly into plant cells by use of micropipettes to transfer mechanically the recombinant DNA. Crossway, Mol. Gen. Genetics, 202:179-85 (1985), which is hereby incorporated by reference. The genetic material may also be transferred into the plant cell using polyethylene glycol. Krens, et al., Nature, 296:72-74 (1982), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Another approach to transforming plant cells with a gene which imparts resistance to pathogens is particle bombardment (also known as biolistic transformation) of the host cell. This can be accomplished in one of several ways. The first involves propelling inert or biologically active particles at cells. This technique is disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,945,050, 5,036,006, and 5,100,792, all to Sanford et al., which are hereby incorporated by reference. Generally, this procedure involves propelling inert or biologically active particles at the cells under conditions effective to penetrate the outer surface of the cell and to be incorporated within the interior thereof. When inert particles are utilized, the vector can be introduced into the cell by coating the particles with the vector containing the heterologous DNA. Alternatively, the target cell can be surrounded by the vector so that the vector is carried into the cell by the wake of the particle. Biologically active particles (e.g.,

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FOI b7D b7E b7F b7G b7H b7I b7J b7K b7L b7M b7N b7O b7P b7Q b7R b7S b7T b7U b7V b7W b7X b7Y b7Z

dried bacterial cells containing the vector and heterologous DNA) can also be propelled into plant cells.

Yet another method of introduction is fusion of protoplasts with other entities, either minicells, cells, lysosomes or other fusible lipid-surfaced bodies.

- 5 Fraley, et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 79:1859-63 (1982), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The DNA molecule may also be introduced into the plant cells by electroporation. Fromm et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 82:5824 (1985), which is hereby incorporated by reference. In this technique, plant protoplasts are
10 electroporated in the presence of plasmids containing the expression cassette. Electrical impulses of high field strength reversibly permeabilize biomembranes allowing the introduction of the plasmids. Electroporated plant protoplasts reform the cell wall, divide, and regenerate.

Another method of introducing the DNA molecule into plant cells is to
15 infect a plant cell with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* or *A. rhizogenes* previously transformed with the gene. Under appropriate conditions known in the art, the transformed plant cells are grown to form shoots or roots, and develop further into plants. Generally, this procedure involves inoculating the plant tissue with a suspension of bacteria and incubating the tissue for 48 to 72 hours on regeneration
20 medium without antibiotics at 25-28°C.

Agrobacterium is a representative genus of the gram-negative family Rhizobiaceae. Its species are responsible for crown gall (*A. tumefaciens*) and hairy root disease (*A. rhizogenes*). The plant cells in crown gall tumors and hairy roots are induced to produce amino acid derivatives known as opines, which are catabolized
25 only by the bacteria. The bacterial genes responsible for expression of opines are a convenient source of control elements for chimeric expression cassettes. In addition, assaying for the presence of opines can be used to identify transformed tissue.

Heterologous genetic sequences can be introduced into appropriate plant cells, by means of the Ti plasmid of *A. tumefaciens* or the Ri plasmid of *A.*
30 *rhizogenes*. The Ti or Ri plasmid is transmitted to plant cells on infection by *Agrobacterium* and is stably integrated into the plant genome. J. Schell, Science, 237:1176-83 (1987), which is hereby incorporated by reference.

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After transformation, the transformed plant cells must be regenerated.

Plant regeneration from cultured protoplasts is described in Evans et al., Handbook of Plant Cell Cultures, Vol. 1: (MacMillan Publishing Co., New York, 1983); and Vasil I.R. (ed.), Cell Culture and Somatic Cell Genetics of Plants, Acad. Press, Orlando, Vol. I, 1984, and Vol. III (1986), which are hereby incorporated by reference.

It is known that practically all plants can be regenerated from cultured cells or tissues, including but not limited to, all major species of sugarcane, sugar beets, cotton, fruit trees, and legumes.

Means for regeneration vary from species to species of plants, but generally a suspension of transformed protoplasts or a petri plate containing transformed explants is first provided. Callus tissue is formed and shoots may be induced from callus and subsequently rooted. Alternatively, embryo formation can be induced in the callus tissue. These embryos germinate as natural embryos to form plants. The culture media will generally contain various amino acids and hormones, such as auxin and cytokinins. It is also advantageous to add glutamic acid and proline to the medium, especially for such species as corn and alfalfa. Efficient regeneration will depend on the medium, on the genotype, and on the history of the culture. If these three variables are controlled, then regeneration is usually reproducible and repeatable.

After the expression cassette is stably incorporated in transgenic plants, it can be transferred to other plants by sexual crossing. Any of a number of standard breeding techniques can be used, depending upon the species to be crossed.

Once transgenic plants of this type are produced, the plants themselves can be cultivated in accordance with conventional procedure with the presence of the gene encoding the hypersensitive response elicitor resulting in disease resistance, enhanced plant growth, control of insects on the plant, and/or stress resistance. Alternatively, transgenic seeds are recovered from the transgenic plants. These seeds can then be planted in the soil and cultivated using conventional procedures to produce transgenic plants. The transgenic plants are propagated from the planted transgenic seeds under conditions effective to impart disease resistance to plants, to enhance plant growth, to control insects, and/or to impart stress resistance. While not

09879248-061201
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wishing to be bound by theory, such disease resistance, growth enhancement, insect control, and/or stress resistance may be RNA mediated or may result from expression of the elicitor polypeptide or protein.

When transgenic plants and plant seeds are used in accordance with the present invention, they additionally can be treated with the same materials as are used to treat the plants and seeds to which a hypersensitive response elicitor polypeptide or protein is applied. These other materials, including hypersensitive response elicitors, can be applied to the transgenic plants and plant seeds by the above-noted procedures, including high or low pressure spraying, injection, coating, and immersion. Similarly, after plants have been propagated from the transgenic plant seeds, the plants may be treated with one or more applications of the hypersensitive response elicitor to impart disease resistance, enhance growth, control insects, and/or to impart stress resistance. Such plants may also be treated with conventional plant treatment agents (e.g., insecticides, fertilizers, etc.).

EXAMPLES

Example 1 - Bacterial Strains and Plasmids

Escherichia coli DH5 and BL21 were purchased from Gibco BRL (Rockville, MD) and Novagen (Madison, WI) respectively.

pET28 plasmids were from Novagen (Madison, WI).

All restriction enzymes (e.g., NdeI and HindIII), T4 DNA ligase, Calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase (CIP), and PCR reagents were from Gibco BRL (Rockville, MD).

Oligonucleotides were synthesized by Lofstrand Labs Ltd (Gaithersburg, MD).

Chemically synthesized polypeptides were synthesized by Bio-Synthesis (Lewisville, TX).

Example 2 - Construction of Truncated Gene Encoding Harpin

Fragments of genes encoding harpin proteins were constructed in pET28 vector and expressed in *E. coli* as follows;

1. HrpN fragments were PCR amplified from the pCPP2139 plasmid (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY) and cloned into pET28 vector.
2. HrpZ fragments were PCR amplified from the pSYH10 plasmid (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY) and cloned into pET28 vector.
3. PopA fragments were PCR amplified from the pBS::popA plasmid (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY) and cloned into pET28 vector.
4. HrpW fragments were PCR amplified from the pCPP1233 plasmid (Cornell University, Ithaca, NY) and cloned into pET28 vector.

All truncated fragments were amplified by PCR with full length harpin DNA as the template.

Oligonucleotides corresponding to the truncated N-terminal sequence were started /modified with a Nde I site (which serves as an initiation codon of methionine (ATG)). Oligonucleotides corresponding to a C-terminal sequence contained a UAA stop codon followed by a Hind III site.

PCR was carried in a 0.5 ml tube with GeneAmpTM 9600 and 9700 (PE Applied Biosystems, Branchburg, New Jersey). 45 µl of SuperMixTM (Gibco BRL, Rockville, MD) was mixed with 20 pmoles of each pair of DNA primers, 10 ng of full length harpin DNA, and diH₂O to fill the final volume to 50 µl. After heating the mixture at 95°C for 2 min., PCR was performed for 30 cycles at 94°C for 1 min., 58°C for 1 min. and 72°C for 1.5 min. Amplified DNAs were purified with QIAquick PCR purification kit (QIAGEN Inc., Vencenia, CA), digested with Nde I and Hind III at 37°C for 5 hours, extracted once with phenol:chloroform:isoamylalcohol (25:24:1), and precipitated with ethanol. 5 µg of pET28(b) vector DNA was digested with 15 units of Nde I and 20 units of Hind III at 37°C for 3 hours followed with calf intestinal alkaline phosphatase treatment for 30 min. at 37°C to reduce the background resulting from incomplete single enzyme digestion. Digested vector DNA was purified with the QIAquick PCR purification kit and directly used for ligation. Ligation was carried at 14°C for 12 hours in a 15 µl mixture containing about 50 to

100 ng of digested pET28(b), 10 to 30 ng of targeted PCR fragments, and 1 unit of T4 DNA ligase. 5 µl of ligation solution was added to 100 µl of DH5α/XL1-Blue competent cells, placed in 15 ml Falcon tube, and incubated on ice for 30 min. After heat shock at 42°C for 45 seconds, 0.9 ml SOC solution (20 g bacto-tryptone, 5 g bacto-yeast extracts, 0.5 g NaCl, 20 mM glucose in one liter) was added into the tube and incubated at 37°C for 1 hour. 20 µl of transformed cells were plated onto LB agar plate with 30 µg/ml of kanamycin and incubated at 37°C for 14 hours. Single colonies were transferred to 3 ml LB-media and incubated overnight at 37°C. Plasmid DNA was prepared in a 2 ml culture with QIAprep Miniprep kit according to the manufacture's instruction. The DNA sequence of truncated harpin constructions was verified with restriction enzyme analysis and sequencing analysis. Plasmids with the desired DNA sequence were transferred into the BL21 strain with a standard chemical transformation method as indicated above.

15 **Example 3 - Expression of Proteins**

A single clone of *E. coli* with a constructed gene was grown overnight at 37°C in LB with kanamycin. A proper amount of overnight culture was transferred to 50 to 500 ml LB and incubated at 37°C until OD600 reached 0.5 to 0.8. ITPG was added to the culture which was further incubated at room temperature for a period of 5 hour to overnight. Alternatively, a proper amount of overnight culture was transferred to 50 to 500 ml of ½ TB with lactose medium (6 g bacto-trypton, 12 g bacto-yeast extract, 75 g lactose in one liter). After incubation at 37°C until the OD600 reached 0.5 to 0.8, the culture was incubated at room temperature for a period of 5 hours to overnight.

All bacterial cells were harvested by centrifugation and resuspended in 1:5 TE buffer (10 mM Tris, pH 8.5 and 1 mM EDTA). The cells were disrupted by sonication and clarified by centrifugation. Supernatants were then infiltrated into tobacco leaves for HR testing.

Heat treatment (i.e. boiling for 1 to 10 min.) was used to achieve further purification.

All truncated fragments of genes encoding harpin protein were expressed in *E. coli*/ BL-21, DE3 strain with an N-terminal His-tag and 20 to 21

amino acid residues generated from the expression vector sequence. The His-tag sequence did not affect the HR activity of the proteins. In some cases, Ni-Agarose beads were added into supernatant solution and mixed at 4°C to room temperature for a period of 30 min. to overnight. The proteins bound to the Ni-Agarose beads were
5 washed by 0.1 M imidazole buffer, and proteins were eluted with 0.6 to 1.0 M imidazole. After dialysis against 10 mM Tris, pH 8.5 buffer, the proteins were infiltrated into tobacco leaves for HR testing.

For proteins expressed in *E. coli* that were difficult to dissolve in water, total cells were resuspended and sonicated in 8 M urea buffer (0.1M Na-phosphate, 10 mM Tris buffer, pH8.0). The total cell lysate was centrifuged, and
10 supernatants were collected. Ni-agarose was added into the supernatants and mixed gently at room temperature for 30 min. The Ni-agarose resin was washed with buffer (8 M urea, 0.1 M Na-phosphate, 10 mM Tris buffer, pH6.3). The proteins were eluted with elution buffer (8 M urea, 0.1 M EDTA, 0.1 M Na-phosphate, 10 mM Tris buffer,
15 pH 6.3) and dialyzed against buffer (pH 8.5, 10 mM Tris) with stepwise decreased urea. If the proteins still were insoluble in buffer, the solution pH was adjusted to 9 to 11 and sonicated at room temperature for 1 to 5 min.

Chemically synthesized polypeptides were dissolved in 10 mM Tris, pH 6.5 to 11 buffers depending on their solubility.

20 A hypersensitive response ("HR") assay was performed by infiltration of 0.1 to 0.3 ml of serial diluted protein solutions into tobacco leaves (cv. Xanth). All HR data shown in these examples were recorded from 48 hours after infiltration.

25 **Example 4 - Quantification of Proteins**

All expressed proteins were checked with pre-cast 4-20% SDS polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) from Novex (San Diego, CA). After electrophoresis, the gel was stained with Coomassie R-250 solution (0.1% Coomassie R-250, 10% Acetate Acid, 40% ethanol) for 1 to 4 hours and destained
30 with destaining solution (8% acetate acid and 25% ethanol) overnight. The density of corresponding bands were compared to standard proteins, which were either purchased from Novex or were from quantitative standard harpin protein produced by Eden Bioscience (Bothell, Washington).

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Example 5 - Classification of Harpin Proteins

Since harpin proteins share common biochemical and biophysical characteristics as well as biological functions, based on their unique properties, HR elicitors from various pathogenic bacteria should be viewed as belonging to a new protein family—i.e. the harpin protein family. The harpin protein can be classified into at least four subfamilies based on their primary structure and isolated sources. As set forth in Table 1, those subfamilies are identified by the designation N, W, Z, A, etc.

Table 1 - Subfamilies of Harpin Proteins

Harpin proteins	Isolated Source	Classified Subfamily	pI	Amino acids	Heat stable	Core structure
HrpN _{Ea}	<i>E. amylovora</i>	N	4.42	403	Yes	No
HrpN _{Ech}	<i>E. chrysanthemi</i>	N	6.51	340	Yes	No
HrpN _{Ecc}	<i>E. carotovora</i>	N	5.82	356	Yes	No
HrpN _{Est}	<i>E. stewartii</i>	N	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
HrpW _{Pss}	<i>P. syringae</i>	W	4.43	424	Yes	No
HrpW _{Ea}	<i>E. amylovora</i>	W	4.46	447	Yes	No
HrpZ _{Pss}	<i>P. syringae</i>	Z	3.95	341	Yes	No
PopA1	<i>R. solanacearum</i>	A	4.16	344	Yes	No

Example 6 - Analysis of the Structural Units of an HR Domain

The sequence of amino acids that alone could elicit a hypersensitive response in plants (i.e. HR domains) has been investigated in different ways. It was reported that a carboxyl-terminal 148 amino acid portion of HrpZ_{Pss} is sufficient and necessary for HR (He et al., "Pseudomonas Syringae pv. Syringae Harpin_{pss}: A Protein that is Secreted via the Hrp Pathway and Elicits the Hypersensitive Response in Plants," Cell 73:1255-1266.(1993), which is hereby incorporated by reference). With truncated HrpZ fragments, it was determined that an N-terminal 109 amino acids and C-terminal 216 amino acids of HrpZ_{Pss}, respectively, were found to elicit HR (Alfano et al., "Analysis of the Role of the Pseudomonas Syringae pv. Syringae HrpZ Harpin in Elicitation of the Hypersensitive Response in Tobacco Using



Functionally Non-polar hrpZ Deletion Mutations, Truncated HrpZ Fragments, and
hrmA Mutations,” Molecular Microbiology 19:715-728 (1996), which is hereby
incorporated by reference). Jin et al., “A Truncated Fragment of Harpin_{pss} Induces
Systemic Resistance to Xanthomonas campestris pv. Oryzae in Rice,” Physiological
5 and Molecular Plant Pathology 51:243-257 (1997), which is hereby incorporated by
reference, reported that a truncated HrpZ_{pss} with an N-terminal of 137 amino acids
elicited a hypersensitive response in tobacco and induced systemic acquired resistance
(i.e. SAR) in rice. After digestion with protease, a hypersensitive response active
fragment of HrpN_{Ea} was isolated and found to span amino acids 137 to 204 of
10 HrpN_{Ea}. It was found that a 98 residue of N-terminal HrpN_{Ea} fragment was the
smallest bacterially produced peptide that displayed HR-eliciting activity (Laby,
“Molecular Studies on Interactions Between Erwinia Amylovora and its Host and
Non-host Plants,” Doctoral Thesis in Cornell University (1997), which is hereby
incorporated by reference).

15 A series of HrpN_{Ea} fragments have been generated with His-tag fusion
at the N-terminal of the polypeptides and a polypeptide (HrpN_{Ea}137180), located at
position of 137 to 180 amino acid residue of HrpN_{Ea}, was identified to elicit HR
activity in tobacco.

20 **Example 7 - Analysis of Secondary Structure of HR Domains**

The DNA and primary protein sequence of the HrpN_{Ea}137180 show no
any homologues among other hypersensitive response elicitors.

Analyses of the secondary structure of the fragment of HrpN_{Ea}137180
25 revealed, with the aid of the computer program Clone Manger5 (Scientific &
Educational Software, Durham, NC), that there was a beta-form, a beta-turn, and
unordered forms. One typical α -helical segment of residues at 157-170 was found in
the HrpN_{Ea}137180 polypeptide. To determine the function of this structure,
polypeptides with a disrupted α -helical structure were generated and hypersensitive
30 response results were evaluated. As shown in Table 2, a complete alpha-helix unit (H
unit), probably with a length greater than 12 amino acid residues, is need for
hypersensitive response activity.

Table 2 - Effect of Alpha-helix Structure

Fragment name	Amino acid	HR*	Structure	Source
HrpN _{Ea} 137180	137-180 (44) pI= 3.10	+ <5 µg/ml	Complete H	E.coli expressed peptide
HrpN _{Ea} 137166	137-166 (30) pI = 3.29	-	disrupted H	Synthesized peptide
HrpN _{Ea} 76168	76-168 pI = 3.39	-	disrupted H	E.coli expressed peptide

5 The α -helical unit plays an important role in hypersensitive response activity; however, it was found that an α -helix unit alone did not achieve HR (Table 3).

10 Therefore, hypersensitive response eliciting domains contain more than one structure unit. Besides the core α -helical unit, there is an acidic unit that has no typical secondary structure feature but is rich in acidic amino acids. This relaxed structure, having a sheet and random turn, is designated as an acidic unit (A unit).

 Although the acidic unit is important in achieving a hypersensitive response, it alone, like the α -helical unit alone, did not elicit a hypersensitive response.

15 A synthetic polypeptide, HrpN_{Ea}140176, that included both A and H structure, spanning amino acids 140 to 176 of HrpN_{Ea}, gave full activity of HR. Sequence analysis by major search engines revealed no global primary sequence similarity in the databases to HrpN_{Ea}140176, even among the harpin protein families.

Table 3 - Effect of Acidic Unit on Hypersensitive Response (HR) Activity

Fragment name	Amino acid	HR*	Structure (A or H)**	Source
HrpN _{Ea} 140176	140-176 (37) pI=3.17	+ <5 µg/ml	A + H	Synthesized peptide
HrpN _{Ea} 157170	157-170 (14) pI = 6.94	-	H	Synthesized peptide
HrpN _{Ea} 137156	137-156 (20) pI = 2.67	-	A	Synthesized peptide

Example 8 - Hypersensitive Response Domain Structure of HrpN_{Ea}

Four α -helical regions with at least 12 amino acid residues were found in HrpN_{Ea} based on computer analysis with the program Clone Manager 5 (Scientific & Educational Software, Durham, NC), which predicts the secondary structure of protein from the primary sequence by the method of Garnier-Osguthorpe-Robson.

It is believed that a hypersensitive response domain includes two structural units, the α -helix (H) and the acidic unit (A). Another hypersensitive response domain, spanning amino acids 43 to 70 in HrpN_{Ea}, was found. A minimal sequence of 12 to 14 AA residues of both the H and A units is believed to be needed. The chemically synthesized polypeptide of HrpN_{Ea}4370 gave full HR activity in tobacco. Thus, a second HR domain has been discovered based on purely secondary structure analysis and prediction.

To further test the hypothesis that the A and H units are needed to achieve a hypersensitive response, an approach of unit exchange (i.e. swapping an acidic unit from one HR domain to another HR domain) was designed. A polypeptide of HrpN_{Ea}Dswap, which consisted of the acidic unit of a hypersensitive response domain (HrpN_{Ea}140176), spanning amino acids 136 to 156 of HrpN_{Ea}, and the α -helical unit of another hypersensitive response domain (HrpN_{Ea}4370), spanning amino acids 57 to 70 of HrpN_{Ea}, was chemically synthesized. This polypeptide swapped two structural units of A and H between two hypersensitive response domains of HrpN_{Ea}4370 and HrpN_{Ea}140176. The HrpN_{Ea}Dswap gave a hypersensitive response activity in tobacco (Table 4). This result shows that the structural characteristic of an HR domain determines its activity, and structural analysis can be used to determine hypersensitive response activity.

Table 4 - Two Structural Units Determine Hypersensitive Response Activity

Fragment name	Amino acid	HR	Structure Type	Source
HrpN _{Ea} 4370	43-70 (28) pI= 3.09	+ <5 μ g/ml	A + H	Synthesized peptide Partial soluble
HrpN _{Ea} Dswap	HrpN136156 (A)+ HrpN5770 (H) pI=2.67	<20 μ g/ml	A unit from HrpN _{Ea} 140176 + H unit from HrpN _{Ea} 4370	Synthesized peptide Partial soluble

Example 9 - Prediction of Hypersensitive Response Domains Among Proteins in Harpin Family

5

The secondary structure which indicates the presence of a hypersensitive response domain in HrpNEa was used to identify other harpin proteins, including proteins classified as different subfamilies. Structural prediction of a hypersensitive response domain among harpin proteins was carried according to

10 following criteria:

1. There are two structural units in a hypersensitive response domain, including:
 - a. A stable α -helix unit with 12 or more amino acids in length and
 - 15 b. An hydrophilic, acidic unit with 12 or more amino acids in length which could be a beta-form, a beta-turn, and unordered forms.
2. The pI of a hypersensitive response domain should be acidic and, in general, below 5.
- 20 3. The minimal size of an HR domain is from about 28 to 40 AA residues.

Putative HR domains have been identified to fit the criteria by computer analysis among harpin protein family (Table 5).

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Table 5 - Predication of Hypersensitive Response Domains Among Harpin Proteins

HR domain	Isolated Source	Predicted region*	pI	Structure
HrpN _{Ea} -1	<i>E. amylovora</i>	43-70	3.09	A + H
HrpN _{Ea} -2	<i>E. amylovora</i>	140-176	3.17	A + H
HrpN _{Ech} -1	<i>E. chrysanthemi</i>	78-118	5.25	A + H
HrpN _{Ech} -2	<i>E. chrysanthemi</i>	256-295	4.62	A + H
HrpN _{Ecc} -1	<i>E. carotovora</i>	25-63	4.06	A + H
HrpN _{Ecc} -2	<i>E. carotovora</i>	101-140	3.00	A + H
HrpW _{Pss} -1	<i>P. syringae</i>	52-96	4.32	A + H
HrpW _{Ea} -1	<i>E. amylovora</i>	10-59	4.53	A + H
HrpZ _{Pss} -1	<i>P. syringae</i>	97-132	3.68	A + H
HrpZ _{Pss} -2	<i>P. syringae</i>	153-189	3.67	A + H
HrpZ _{Pss} -3	<i>P. syringae</i>	271-308	3.95	A + H
PopA1 _{Rs} -1	<i>R. solanacearum</i>	92-125	3.75	A + H
PopA1 _{Rs} -2	<i>R. solanacearum</i>	206-260	3.62	A + H

5 *Amino acid residue position

Example 10 - Hypersensitive Response Activity of Select Synthesized Polypeptides

10 Polypeptides were produced by expression in either *E. coli* or by chemical synthesis. Based on prediction of solubility and stability of a particular peptide, in some cases, a broader region of AA residues in addition to the essential units were also synthesized to increase solubility of the peptides. The identification of

15 HR domains among four subfamilies of harpin protein demonstrated this (Table 6).

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Table 6 - Hypersensitive Response Activity of Select Synthesized Polypeptides

HR domain	Isolated Source	Synthesized region	pI	Source	HR activity
HrpN _{Ea} -1	<i>E. amylovora</i>	43-70	3.09	Chemical Synthesized	+ < 5 µg/ml
HrpN _{Ea} -2	<i>E. amylovora</i>	140-176	3.17	Chemical Synthesized	+ < 5 µg/ml
HrpW _{Ea} -2	<i>E. amylovora</i>	10-59	4.53	E.coli expressed	+ < 5 µg/ml
HrpZ _{Pss} -1	<i>P. syringae</i>	97-132	3.68	Chemical Synthesized	+ < 20 µg/ml
HrpZ _{Pss} -1	<i>P. syringae</i>	153-189	3.69	E.coli expressed	+ < 5 µg/ml
PopA1 _{Rs} -1	<i>R. solanacearum</i>	92-125	3.75	Chemical Synthesized	+ < 5 µg/ml
PopA1 _{Rs} -2	<i>R. solanacearum</i>	206-260	3.62	E.coli expressed	+ < 5 µg/ml

5 Example 11 - Construction of Hypersensitive Response Domains in a Protein Expression Cassette

Polypeptides with a harpin protein hypersensitive response domain were expressed in *E. coli*. PCR was used to amplify desired areas of genes encoding harpin proteins and cloned into an expression vector, e.g. pET28a. A pair of PCR primers with unique flanking sequences were designed to create a universal expression cassette, as shown in Figure 1, for expression of a fragment of harpin protein. Each amplified DNA fragment has a protein translation start codon of ATG in a restriction enzyme Nde I site which might add an extra amino acid of methionine into a polypeptide. Each amplified DNA fragment has a protein translation stop codon of TAA. Each amplified fragment contained two restriction enzyme sites of EcoR V and Sma I, which gave 4 extra in-frame amino acids expressed as Pro-Gly at the N-terminal and Asp-Ile at the C-terminal, respectively. Those two sites are essential to allow two or more expression cassettes to be linked in a specific order and in frame with a minimum number of amino acids being introduced. Cassette A was first digested by EcoR V, ligated to cassette B, and digested with Sma I to produce a new expression cassette C which coupled the two fragments together with two extra amino acids (i.e. Asp-Gly), which are common amino acids in hypersensitive response domains. The newly formed cassette C still contained the same 5' and 3' flanking sequences as original cassettes A and B and maintained the ability to be

coupled by another cassette. Bgl II and Bam HI sites in the cassette permit the cassette to be linked in frame into a concatomer with a correct orientation. The strategy is that digestion of DNA with Bgl II and Bam HI results in compatible ends that would be ligated with each other but could not be cut by either enzymes after
5 ligation. For example, a DNA fragment encoding a hypersensitive response domain in a cassette could be digested by restriction enzymes of Bgl II and Bam HI separately, digested DNA fragments could be ligated in a ligation solution also including both Bgl II and Bam HI enzymes, any ligated ends with Bgl II or Bam HI sites could be digested by the enzymes, and only those ligated sites between Bgl II
10 and Bam HI could remain.

Example 12 - Building Blocks for Creating Superharpins that have Higher Biological Efficacy

15 Hypersensitive response domains were identified and isolated from several harpin proteins. With the combination of those HR domains, new polypeptides (i.e. superharpins) that have higher HR potency and have enhanced ability to induce disease resistance, impart insect resistance, enhance growth, and achieve environmental stress tolerance. Superharpins could be one HR domain repeat
20 units (concatomer), different combinations of HR domains, and/or biologically active domains from other elicitors. Part of the domains from different harpin proteins and other elicitors were constructed into the universal expression cassette as shown on Example 11 and designated as superharpin building blocks. Table 7 lists some superharpin building blocks which were expressed in pET-28a(+) vector with a
25 His-tag sequence at their N-terminal.

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Table 7 - Superharpin Building Blocks including pET-28a(+) his-tag Leader Sequence

Domain Sequence	Source	MW (kDa)	#a.a.	pI	Soluble	(Structurally) Heat Stable
A	PopA70-146	10.69	104	6.48	Yes	Yes
(N _N)	HrpNEa40-80	6.754	68	6.78	N/A	N/A
(N _N) ₂	Dimer of HrpNEa40-80	10.84	111	6.13	N/A	N/A
(N _N) ₃	Triplemer of HrpNEa40-80	14.93	154	5.63	N/A	N/A
(N _N) ₄	Tetramer of HrpNEa40-80	19.01	197	4.95	N/A	N/A
(N _C)	HrpNEa140-180	7.224	68	5.01	Yes	Yes
(N _C) ₂	Dimer of HrpNEa140-180	11.78	111	3.98	Yes	Yes
(N _C) ₃	Triplemer of HrpNEa140-180	16.34	154	3.72	Yes	Yes
(N _C) ₄	Tetramer of HrpNEa140-180	20.89	197	3.58	Yes	Yes
(N _C) ₁₀	Cancatomer (10 repeating units of HrpNEa140-180	48.23	455	3.28	N/A	N/A
(N _C) ₁₆	Cancatomer (16 repeating units of HrpNEa140-180	75.57	713	3.18	N/A	N/A
W	HrpWEa10-59	7.986	77	6.48	N/A	N/A
Z _N	HrpZ90-150	8.087	78	5.38	Yes	Yes
Z ₂₆₆₋₃₀₈	HrpZ266-308	7.029	70	6.40	Yes	Yes
his-tag leader seq.		2.045	19	11.04		

5

Example 13 - Superharpins with Stacked HR Domains and their Biological Activities

There are numerous polypeptides could be generated with different combinations of HR domains or by stacking HR domains and repeating units in order. Selective combination or stacking of HR domains isolated from harpin proteins or other elicitors can be designed to achieve a targeted disease resistance spectrum. See Table 8 for superharpins prepared by stacking of HR building blocks listed on Table 7. All three listed superharpins (i.e. SH-1, SH-2, SH-3) were constructed into a pET28(a) vector and expressed in *E. coli*. Recombinant proteins were partially purified and quantified by SDS-PAGE with purified Harpin N protein as a quantitative standard.

15

Table 8 - Properties of Superharpins

Protein	Domain Sequence	MW (kDa)	# a.a.	pI	Soluble	Heat Stable
SH-1	*W(N _N) ₄ A(N _C) ₄ Z ₂₆₆₋₃₀₈	54.955	545	3.69	Yes	Yes
SH-2	*W(N _N) ₄ Z _N (N _C) ₄ Z ₂₆₆₋₃₀₈	52.341	519	3.54	Yes	Yes
SH-3	*W(N _N) ₄ Z _N (N _C) ₄ Z ₂₆₆₋₃₀₈ A	60.375	598	3.67	Yes	Yes
HrpNEa	HrpN from <i>E.amylovora</i>	39.697	403	4.42	Yes	Yes

- 5 Bioassays for hypersensitive response on tobacco leaves (HR), percentage of TMV reduction on tobacco leaves, and plant growth enhancement with tomato showed that superharpins had higher (up to 2 to 10 fold greater) HR potency compared with HrpN from *E. amylovora*. This also demonstrated that superharpins have better performance on % TMV reduction and plant growth enhancement assay.
- 10 See Table 9.

Table 9 - Biological Activities of Superharpins

Protein	Domain Sequence	Elicit HR (~µg/ml)	% TMV reduction on tobacco		% Plant Growth Enhancement	
			10 µg/ml	1 µg/ml	10 µg/ml	1 µg/ml
SH-1	W(N _N) ₄ A(N _C) ₄ Z ₂₆₆₋₃₀₈	0.66	83	79	7.49	9.83
SH-2	W(N _N) ₄ Z _N (N _C) ₄ Z ₂₆₆₋₃₀₈	0.13	84	60	11.05	7.30
SH-3	W(N _N) ₄ Z _N (N _C) ₄ Z ₂₆₆₋₃₀₈ A	0.15	77	55	11.07	10.00
HrpNEa	HrpN from <i>E.amylovora</i>	1-3	55	10	11.68	N/A

- 15 Although the invention has been described in detail for the purpose of illustration, it is understood that such detail is solely for that purpose, and variations can be made therein by those skilled in the art without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention which is defined by the following claims.